



Natural Connections
Edmonton's Integrated Natural
Areas Conservation Plan

Public Engagement Process Report 3

Online Survey Results Final Report

City of Edmonton, Office of Natural Areas
December 2006



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Highlights

Responses to the survey were very consistent, despite the unusually high sample size of 1,367.

Respondents indicated a very high level of support for natural areas conservation throughout.

Five hundred and fifty respondents wrote additional comments when they had concluded the survey. The comments range widely, though the top nine “themes” have been accounted for in this report. All 549 comments are provided in Appendix Four.

1. More needs to be done to protect Edmonton's Natural Areas.
2. The natural areas make Edmonton a good place to live / It's why I live in Edmonton.
3. Natural areas contribute to healthy living / quality of life.
4. Too much natural land and green space is being lost to development.
5. There should be stricter rules for developers / Developers should be required to protect natural areas.
6. Once natural areas are gone, they are gone forever / We must protect them for future generations.
7. The City of Edmonton has done a good job protecting the River Valley and the City's green spaces.
8. More awareness is needed / More education is needed.
9. There is too much urban sprawl / City should control urban sprawl.

Some caution is advised in the interpretation of this data. Most survey respondents were likely part of a self-selecting constituency of people already well-versed in and committed to conservation. The uniformity of opinion among respondents should not be construed as representing a similarly common opinion among Edmontonians. However, the number of respondents also indicates that conservationists are a particularly motivated group and that they are passionate about the issue.

To help balance the opinion registered through the online survey, Teleologic also conducted two random sample focus groups on the issue of natural areas conservation. Those results are contained in the report entitled “Conservation Focus Groups.”

Background and methodology

As part of the public engagement process to support the development of Natural Connections, the City of Edmonton's Integrated Natural Areas Conservation Plan, Teleologic Strategic Communications conducted an online survey to gauge public perceptions toward natural areas within the City of Edmonton and desired actions on the part of the City to protect these areas. Survey data was collected and "cleaned" by SALEient and provide to Teleologic and Janet Brown Consulting, an independent public opinion research firm based in Calgary, for analysis.

Survey method

The survey was available to potential respondents from November 10 to December 8, 2006.

The survey questions were developed by Teleologic in consultation with the Office of Natural Areas. The survey itself was built by SALEient and hosted on its own server. An external link to the survey was provided on the web page of the City of Edmonton's Office of Natural Areas. See Appendix One for survey questions. Because the survey was restricted to Edmonton residents, respondents were required to provide a valid Edmonton postal code to gain access to the survey.

The Office employed several means to promote the online survey.

- A press conference held November 14 resulted in considerable newspaper and radio coverage, including instructions on how to access the survey, enabling interested citizens to respond. Subsequent coverage on CBC radio kept the issue in the news for another ten days. See the Media Relations report for details.
- The Office sent a notification e-mail to all stakeholders in its contact database to encourage survey responses and provide information about open houses and workshops. Recipients were encouraged to circulate the e-mail to friends and family in order to extend the notification as far as possible.
- Academics in appropriate disciplines in the City's post-secondary institutions received notice of the survey and other public engagement opportunities and were encouraged to share this information with students.
- The Office sent an e-mail notice to teachers of grades six to 12 in the Edmonton Public School Board and Edmonton Catholic School District, with an attachment that could be posted in classrooms.
- Survey and other public engagement event notices were placed in public libraries.

See Appendix Two for e-mail notifications.

A total of 1,367 surveys were completed, a much better response rate than has been typical for City surveys of this kind.¹ See Appendix Three for the data set.

Quality control

When the survey was closed, the collected data was "cleaned" to ensure that incomplete and duplicate surveys were deleted. Incomplete surveys were defined as surveys with no answers after the first five questions; duplicates were defined as containing exactly the same answers and originating from the same IP address. The data cleaning resulted in the removal of 140 surveys, the vast majority of which contained no responses to questions (see "Accessibility issues" below).

¹ For example, the Focus Edmonton online survey that had been accessible for six weeks received 200 responses

Accessibility issues

Some potential respondents using Safari, the Apple Internet browser, discovered a system incompatibility and even when using legitimate postal codes were unable to proceed to the pages that would enable them to answer the survey questions. Many of those people contacted the Office and were advised to use an alternate browser. These 'unsuccessful sign-ons' accounted for most of the surveys cleaned from the data set and represented less than 10 percent of the total.

One person notified the Office of Natural Areas that she felt permitting the installation of a cookie on her computer – essential to enable the completion of the survey – compromised her security and so she did not complete the survey online. She suggested some friends had similar misgivings.

Presentation of data

Most survey questions assigned a value of 1 to "strongly agree," 2 to "agree" and so on to 5 indicating "strongly disagree." However, for the purposes of data presentation, the numerical values have been reversed, such that "strongly agree" has been reassigned a value of 5, and so on. This improves the visual presentation of the data by showing a larger bar in cases of agreement.

Statistical reliability of data

Because this was an online survey and respondents were self-selected, the survey may or may not be representative of the larger population. As such, random probability statistics cannot be applied to this data.

Having said this, a sample of this size (n=1,367) would have a margin of error of +/-2.7% (19 times in 20), if it were a representative sample.

Survey results

Numerical 'agreement value' of "agree with" statements

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they "strongly agree," "agree," "neither agree nor disagree," "disagree" or "strongly disagree" with each of the provided statements. As above, the survey results have been presented such that 5 corresponds to "strongly agree" and 1 to "strongly disagree."

The response data has been presented in a different order than questions were asked such that those statements with the highest agreement value are indicated first, and those with the lowest agreement value indicated last. This enables a more direct comparison of the values respondents ascribe to natural areas and conservation issues than might be the case if the responses were presented in the original question-based order. The corresponding question is presented to the left of the bar graph that displays the agreement value it received in the survey.

To see the survey questions in the order they were presented online, see Appendix 1.

In general, it can be said that respondents overwhelmingly favoured natural areas conservation. The agreement values with pro conservation statements ranged from a high of 4.9 to a low of 4.2. The only statement that did not favour conservation received an agreement value of 1.4, indicating strong disagreement.

Figure 1: Top seven agreement values

The presence of protected natural areas within the City of Edmonton enhances quality of life.

The City of Edmonton should encourage the conservation and integration of as many natural areas into Edmonton's future urban environment as are necessary to maintain the habitat viability of the natural areas network.

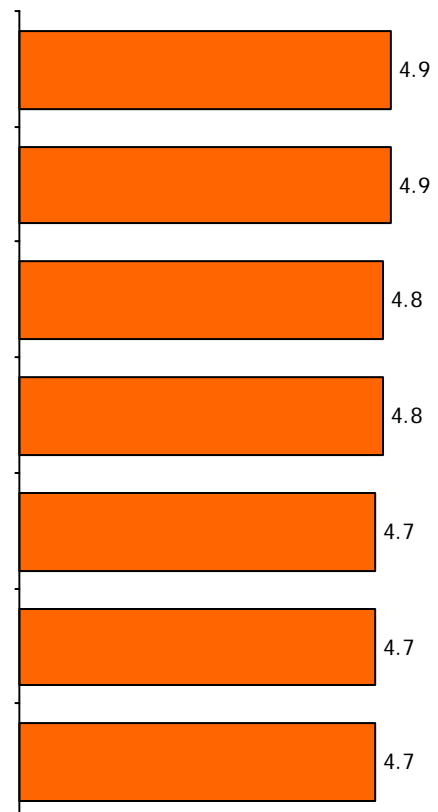
The City of Edmonton should protect all natural areas in Edmonton located on land owned by the City.

The City of Edmonton should develop natural areas conservation policy with a view to maintaining 'corridors' or 'greenways' between natural areas – such as pedestrian trails and other green spaces – that provide routes for the movement of species between areas, the so-called 'network' approach.

The City of Edmonton should collaborate with developers to encourage the conservation and integration of as many natural areas in Edmonton as possible.

The conservation of natural areas within a neighbourhood enhances property values – that is, I am willing to pay more for a home in close proximity to natural areas.

The protection of natural areas is a shared responsibility. The City of Edmonton should enter into partnerships with other governments and non-governmental organizations to conserve natural areas.



Numerical ‘agreement value’ of “agree with” statements (cont.)

Figure 2: Eight to fourteen agreement values

The City of Edmonton should harmonize its conservation goals with the conservation efforts of the governments of Canada and Alberta to support such plans as the provincial fisheries and wildlife management plans ...[more; for the rest of the question, see the footnote below.]²

In June 2006, the City of Edmonton became a partner with the Edmonton Community Foundation, Edmonton Nature Club, Urban Development Institute, Legacy Lands Conservation ...– [more; see the footnote below.]³

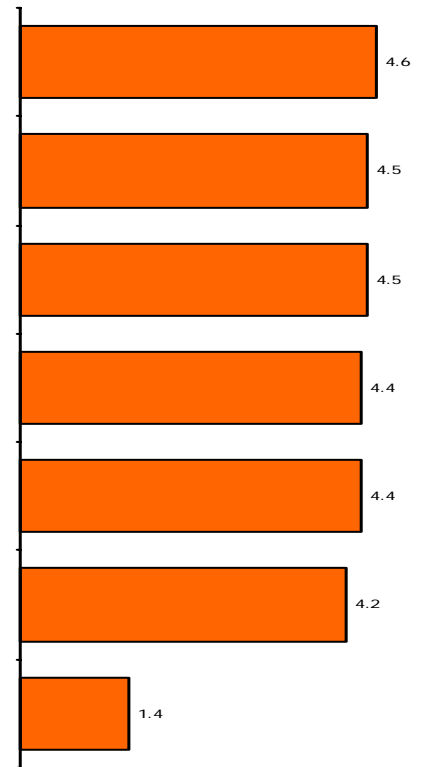
The federal government provides tax incentives for the donation of ecologically sensitive land to approved conservation charities and has reduced the capital gains tax on such land to zero. [more; see the footnote below.]⁴

Protection of the environment is a federal and provincial responsibility and the City of Edmonton has limited authority under the Municipal Government Act (Alberta) to implement conservation measures. [more; see the footnote below.]⁵

Where feasible, the City of Edmonton should purchase natural areas on private land.

The City of Edmonton should develop incentives to encourage the acquisition of natural areas and/or their conservation by developers.

Accommodating growth and economic development is more important than the conservation of natural areas.



550 respondents (40 percent) took the opportunity to provide additional comments at the conclusion of the survey. The most common themes of those comments have been tracked as follows on the next page. Only comments on thematic lines made by two percent or greater of respondents (27 or more) have been depicted in the graph on the following page. All respondent comments are provided in Appendix Four.

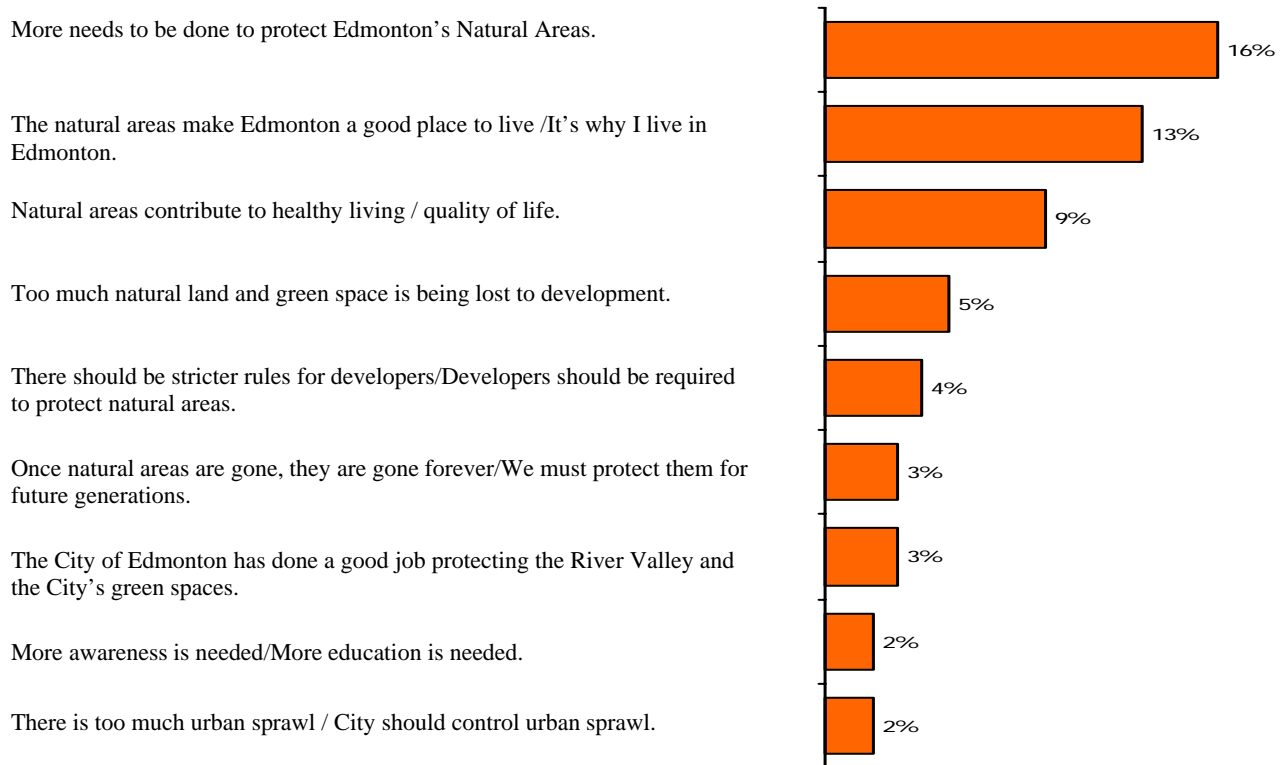
² ... the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and species-at-risk protection legislation.

³ ... Society and the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada to create the Edmonton Land Trust. City Council will consider a proposal during its 2007 budget deliberations to provide a \$2.5 million endowment to cover operational expenses. The City should provide operational support to the Edmonton Land Trust that will better enable it to receive donations from private landowners of natural areas.

⁴ In a complementary decision, the City approved the creation of the Ecological Conservation Assistance Program to cover the reasonable costs (legal, accounting, surveying, etc.) to landowners of making a donation to the City of Edmonton. The City should invest in a campaign to raise awareness of this program among landowners.

⁵ The Province should provide municipalities with new powers to protect and conserve natural areas.

Figure 3: Top nine themes for respondent comments



Appendix One: Online survey

EDMONTON
ALBERTA'S CAPITAL CITY
Natural Areas Survey

Welcome

Welcome to the Integrated Natural Areas Conservation Plan on-line survey.

The survey is now closed. Thank you for your interest.

This survey may only be completed by residents of Edmonton and will take approximately 10-15 minutes.

You must have cookies enabled on your browser to complete the survey. To see if your browser is properly enabled, click the name of your browser below.

Please enter the first three digits of your postal code.

Respondents entered their postal code to have their Edmonton residency validated.

EDMONTON
ALBERTA'S CAPITAL CITY
Natural Areas Survey

The City defines a natural area as "An area of land and/or water especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means." Areas designated for protection are >1 hectare in size. Areas such as groomed parks, recreational areas for sports, and schoolyards are not included in this definition.

Most of the City's natural areas are within the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System (NSRURS) and protection measures are contained within the "Ribbon of Green - North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System Master Plan." Ecologically significant areas in the City's 'tablelands' first identified in 1993 are addressed under Policy C-467, entitled "Conservation of Natural Sites in Edmonton's Table Lands." The Policy states that "the City of Edmonton will encourage the conservation and integration of as many Environmentally Sensitive and Significant Natural Areas into Edmonton's future urban environment as are sustainable and feasible." Most of these natural areas are at the City's fringes, on undeveloped and/or agricultural land.

It is also important to note that many natural areas are not publicly owned - that is, they are located on private lands - and the City has no legislative instrument to impel landowners to comply with conservation measures. At the same time, it should be noted that voluntary participation of landowners in conservation efforts has been excellent.

The Integrated Natural Areas Conservation Plan is intended to bring all natural areas under the same protection measures and to conserve those areas as a connected network of natural areas, maintaining a healthy environment for the City's wildlife and human inhabitants, and ensuring the many benefits provided by natural areas. Many sites have been identified in connection with significant plant and animal species.

The next screen provided necessary background information to help respondents complete the survey.

EDMONTON
ALBERTA'S CAPITAL CITY
Natural Areas Survey

[Return to Natural Areas Start Page](#) | [Restart Survey](#)

Step 1: Questions 1 to 3 of 14

1. The presence of protected natural areas within the City of Edmonton enhances quality of life.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

2. The City of Edmonton should encourage the conservation and integration of as many natural areas into Edmonton's future urban environment as are necessary to maintain the habitat viability of the natural areas network.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

3. The City of Edmonton should protect all natural areas in Edmonton located on land owned by the City.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

Questions were answered by clicking on the radio box that indicated the respondent's agreement with the statement provided.

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ALBERTA'S CAPITAL CITY
Natural Areas Survey

[Return to Natural Areas Start Page](#) [Restart Survey](#)

Step 2: Questions 4 to 7 of 14

4. Accommodating growth and economic development is more important than the conservation of natural areas.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

5. The City of Edmonton should collaborate with developers to encourage the conservation and integration of as many natural areas in Edmonton as possible.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

6. The City of Edmonton should develop incentives to encourage the acquisition of natural areas and/or their conservation by developers.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

7. The conservation of natural areas within a neighbourhood enhances property values - that is, I am willing to pay more for a home in close proximity to natural areas.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

[Continue](#)

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ALBERTA'S CAPITAL CITY
Natural Areas Survey

[Return to Natural Areas Start Page](#) [Restart Survey](#)

Step 3: Questions 8 to 10 of 14

8. Where feasible, the City of Edmonton should purchase natural areas on private land.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

9. The City of Edmonton should harmonize its conservation goals with the conservation efforts of the governments of Canada and Alberta to support such plans as the provincial fisheries and wildlife management plans, the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and species-at-risk protection legislation.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

10. The City of Edmonton should develop natural areas conservation policy with a view to maintaining 'corridors' or 'greenways' between natural areas - such as pedestrian trails and other green spaces - that provide routes for the movement of species between areas, the so-called 'network' approach.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

[Continue](#)

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Natural Areas Survey

[Return to Natural Areas Start Page](#) [Restart Survey](#)

Step 4: Questions 11 and 12 of 14

11. The protection of natural areas is a shared responsibility. The City of Edmonton should enter into partnerships with other governments and non-governmental organizations to conserve natural areas.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

12. In June 2006, the City of Edmonton became a partner with the Edmonton Community Foundation, Edmonton Nature Club, Urban Development Institute, Legacy Lands Conservation Society and the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada to create the Edmonton Land Trust.

The City should provide operational support to the Edmonton Land Trust that will better enable it to receive donations from private landowners of natural areas.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

[Continue](#)

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Online Survey Results – Final Report

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Natural Areas Survey

[Return to Natural Areas Start Page](#) [Restart Survey](#)

Step 5: Questions 13 and 14 of 14

13. Protection of the environment is a federal and provincial responsibility and the City of Edmonton has limited authority under the Municipal Government Act (Alberta) to implement conservation measures. The Province should provide municipalities with new powers to protect and conserve natural areas.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

14. The federal government provides tax incentives for the donation of ecologically sensitive land to approved conservation charities and has reduced the capital gains tax on such land to zero. In a complementary decision, the City approved the creation of the Ecological Conservation Assistance Program to cover the reasonable costs (legal, accounting, surveying, etc.) to landowners of making a donation to the City of Edmonton.

The City should invest in a campaign to raise awareness of this program among landowners.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree Don't Know

[Continue](#)

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ALBERTA'S CAPITAL CITY
Natural Areas Survey

[Return to Natural Areas Start Page](#) [Restart Survey](#)

We need to ask you some additional information that will help us to determine the characteristics of natural areas advocates. Please fill in the boxes below.

Comments (optional). If you would like to enter any other comments about Edmonton's Natural Areas, please do so here.

[Continue](#)

When respondents had completed the survey, they were invited to make additional comments about Edmonton's natural areas and approach to conservation.

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Natural Areas Survey

[Return to Natural Areas Start Page](#) [Restart Survey](#)

We need to ask you some additional information that will help us to determine the characteristics of natural areas advocates. Please fill in the boxes below.

I am (choose one).

I am years of age (choose one).

I have visited/made use of a natural area within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton in the past 12 months. Remember, natural areas do not include manicured parks, sports fields or school yards.

Years resident in Edmonton:

(choose one).

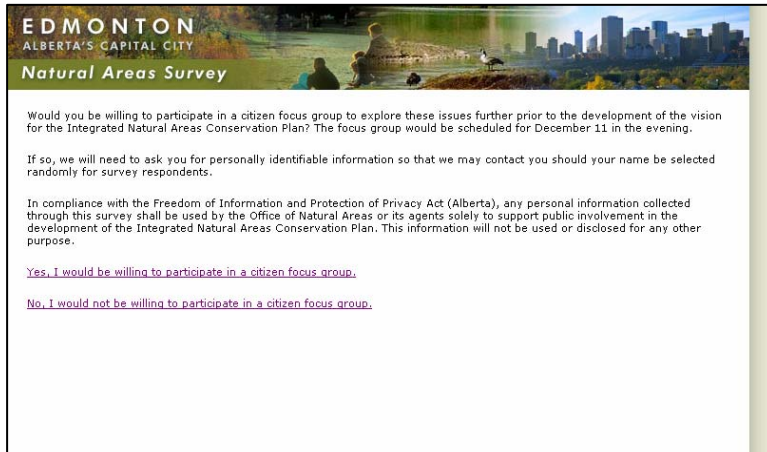
The City can be roughly divided into four quadrants - north/south by the North Saskatchewan River, and east/west by Calgary Trail on the south side and 97 Street on the north side.

I live in the (choose one) quadrant of Edmonton.

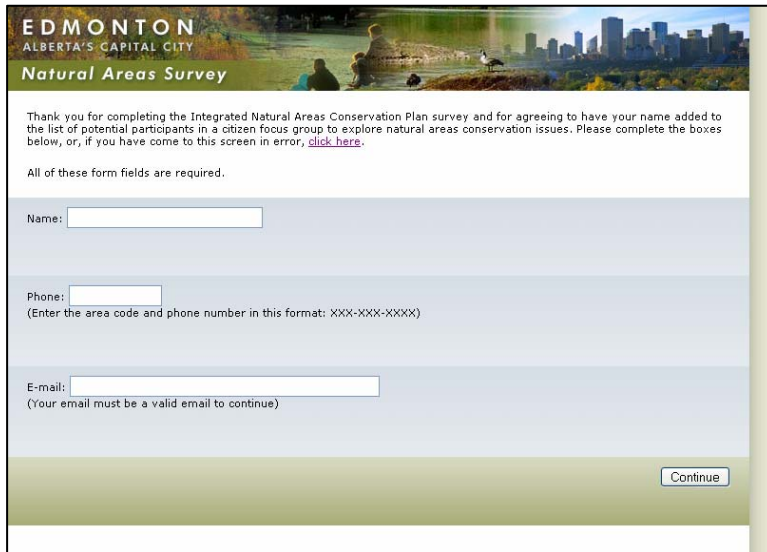
North West
North East
South West
South East

[Continue](#)

Respondents were asked to provide demographic information that might have influenced the analysis. Results demonstrated no significant trends related to gender, age, recent visits, length of residency in Edmonton, or in which quadrant the respondent lived.

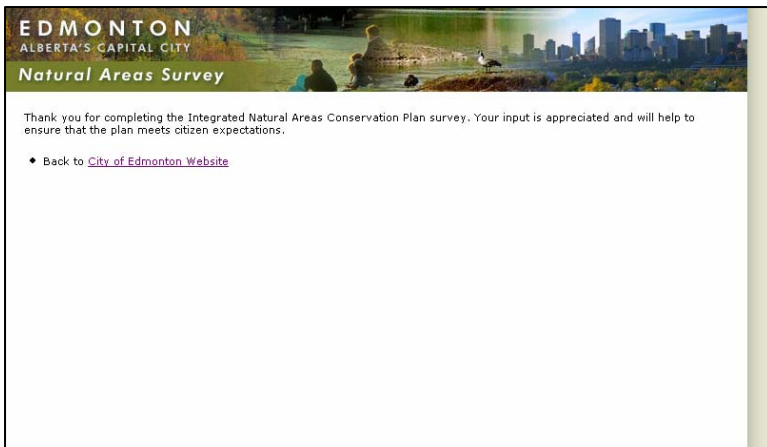


Respondents were asked if they would participate in a later focus group.




481 respondents agreed to be listed in a sample from which focus group participants might be selected. In the end, Teleologic and the Office agreed that the focus groups will yield better results if taken from a random sample instead of survey respondents whose opinions may have been influenced by the survey.

The people who provided their names and contact information have been added to a stakeholder database.



Appendix Two: E-mail notifications



EDMONTON
ALBERTA'S CAPITAL CITY
Integrated Natural Areas Conservation Plan

The City of Edmonton needs you!

[Please feel free to forward this e-mail to anyone you think might be interested.]

Edmonton, November 14, 2006 – The City of Edmonton is calling on residents to lend their voice to help develop a new *Integrated Natural Areas Conservation Plan*. The plan is being developed to properly manage natural areas within Edmonton's boundaries, while Alberta's Capital City deals with the demand for commercial, industrial and residential development.

The first phase of public consultation began Tuesday, November 14 with the release of the updated *State of Natural Areas* report. The City invites Edmontonians and key stakeholders to participate in developing the vision and guiding principles for natural areas conservation through an online survey, public workshops and open houses. The City is seeking input from citizens on how it should balance development pressures with its commitment to preserve sensitive landscapes that support significant native plants and wildlife and that afford residents and visitors with opportunities to appreciate nature that are rare in urban municipalities. The City will then use this input to develop the implementation plan.

Residents of Edmonton interested in providing input to the City's *Integrated Natural Areas Conservation Plan* should visit www.edmonton.ca/naturalareas to review the new *State of Natural Areas* report, take the survey, learn about upcoming open houses or sign up to participate in public workshops.

There are **three different opportunities** for the public-at-large to be involved in helping to define the conservation vision for the City of Edmonton.

On-line Survey
The Office of Natural Areas has created an on-line survey that will be available to residents of Edmonton from November 14 to December 8. Please visit www.edmonton.ca/naturalareas to link to the survey.

Public Open Houses
The City will host four public open houses, one in each of the four quadrants of Edmonton. The open houses will give residents an opportunity to view maps produced to support the 2006 *State of Natural Areas* report and to provide their input to City staff in an informal setting. Drop-in visits are encouraged.

Northwest Edmonton
Monday, November 20
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Days Inn (Oak Room)
10010 179A Street

The Office of Natural Areas sent the e-mail at left to all persons and organizations on its stakeholder database. Recipients were encouraged to pass the notice on to friends and family.

The notice included a link to the online survey and information on all public open houses and workshops.

Subject: Conservation Plan Public Involvement - Notice for Teachers and Students

Good afternoon,

I work with the City of Edmonton's Office of Natural Areas, which is responsible for protection, acquisition and restoration of natural areas within Edmonton. We're currently embarking on a public engagement process, with a goal of finding out from Edmontonians how the city's natural areas are used, and how people would like to see the City protect them. There are several ways in which the public can become involved in this process, including workshops, open houses and an online survey.

We would like very much to engage Edmonton's youth in this process, and would really appreciate your distributing the information in the attached document - it can be printed, posted or emailed as you see fit. I should note that we are working within a very tight timeframe on this project (the majority of events will take place in the last 2 weeks of November and the survey is currently available on our website, at www.edmonton.ca/naturalareas), so the sooner this information can be shared, the better.

We really appreciate your help on this - please feel free to contact me if you would like more information on the process, or with any questions or concerns.

Thanks kindly,
Angela
<<Conservation Plan Public Engagement Events - Notice to Teachers.doc>>

Angela Hobson
Ecological Planner
Office of Natural Areas
City of Edmonton, Asset Management & Public Works
Phone: 780.496.6147
Email: Angela.Hobson@edmonton.ca

Angela Hobson sent the message at left to teachers of all of grades six to 12 in the Edmonton Public School Board and Edmonton Catholic School District. The e-mail included an attachment that provided all the relevant public engagement opportunity information.

Appendix Three: Online survey data set

1. The presence of protected natural areas within the City of Edmonton enhances quality of life.

	Total	Male	Female	<18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Visited	Not	DK	<5	5 to 10	10+	NE	NW	SE	SW
SD = 1	5 0%	2 0%	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 0%	1 0%	1 2%	4 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	3 0%	1 1%	1 0%	2 1%	0 0%
D = 2	1 0%	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
N = 3	1 0%	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 3%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%
A = 4	53 4%	25 5%	25 3%	2 8%	4 4%	26 4%	16 4%	2 3%	44 3%	6 19%	0 0%	9 4%	8 4%	33 4%	8 5%	17 4%	10 3%	15 4%
SA = 5	1292 95%	468 92%	766 96%	19 73%	91 95%	646 95%	428 96%	59 94%	1209 96%	23 72%	11 92%	219 94%	211 96%	813 95%	161 95%	397 94%	304 96%	381 95%
DK = 0	15 1%	9 2%	1 0%	5 19%	1 1%	3 0%	1 0%	1 2%	8 1%	2 6%	1 8%	5 2%	0 0%	6 1%	0 0%	7 2%	2 1%	2 1%
Total	1367	506	794	26	96	678	446	63	1265	32	12	233	220	856	170	422	318	399
Mean	4.942	4.924	4.958	4.905	4.958	4.947	4.955	4.903	4.952	4.733	5.000	4.961	4.945	4.945	4.929	4.949	4.943	4.957
Top boxes (5&4)	6 0%	3 1%	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 0%	1 0%	1 2%	4 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	3 0%	1 1%	1 0%	2 1%	0 0%
Bottom 1&2)	1345 98%	493 97%	791 #####	21 81%	95 99%	672 99%	444 #####	61 97%	1253 99%	29 91%	11 92%	228 98%	219 100%	846 99%	169 99%	414 98%	314 99%	396 99%

2. The City of Edmonton should encourage the conservation and integration of as many natural areas into Edmonton's future urban environment as are necessary to maintain the habitat viability of the natural areas network.

	Total	Male	Female	<18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Visited	Not	DK	<5	5 to 10	10+	NE	NW	SE	SW
SD = 1	5 0%	2 0%	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 0%	1 0%	1 2%	4 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	3 0%	1 1%	1 0%	2 1%	0 0%
D = 2	3 0%	5 1%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	0 0%	1 0%	1 1%	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%
N = 3	7 1%	5 1%	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3 0%	4 1%	0 0%	7 1%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	1 0%	5 1%	2 1%	3 1%	1 0%	1 0%
A = 4	84 6%	37 7%	40 5%	2 8%	5 5%	43 6%	23 5%	4 6%	65 5%	10 31%	2 17%	17 7%	10 5%	50 6%	12 7%	28 7%	20 6%	17 4%
SA = 5	1252 92%	452 89%	746 94%	19 73%	89 93%	625 92%	417 93%	57 90%	1175 93%	22 69%	10 83%	208 89%	207 94%	792 93%	154 91%	383 91%	294 92%	376 94%
DK = 0	16 1%	7 1%	4 1%	5 19%	2 2%	3 0%	1 0%	1 2%	12 1%	0 0%	0 0%	6 3%	1 0%	5 1%	0 0%	6 1%	1 0%	5 1%
Total	1367	508	794	26	96	678	446	63	1265	32	12	233	220	856	170	422	318	399
Mean	4.906	4.860	4.934	4.905	4.947	4.907	4.921	4.871	4.919	4.688	4.833	4.903	4.927	4.912	4.865	4.901	4.905	4.952
Top boxes (5&4)	8 1%	7 1%	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4 1%	1 0%	1 2%	6 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	1 0%	4 0%	2 1%	2 0%	2 1%	0 0%
Bottom 1&2)	1336 98%	489 96%	786 99%	21 81%	94 98%	668 99%	440 99%	61 97%	1240 98%	32 #####	12 #####	225 97%	217 99%	842 98%	166 98%	411 97%	314 99%	393 98%

3. The City of Edmonton should protect all natural areas in Edmonton located on land owned by the City.

	Total	Male	Female	<18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Visited	Not	DK	<5	5 to 10	10+	NE	NW	SE	SW
SD = 1	6 0%	3 1%	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 0%	2 0%	1 2%	5 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0%	4 0%	2 1%	1 0%	2 1%	0 0%
D = 2	8 1%	16 3%	1 0%	1 4%	0 0%	4 1%	2 0%	0 0%	7 1%	0 0%	0 0%	2 1%	0 0%	5 1%	1 1%	5 1%	0 0%	1 0%
N = 3	18 1%	16 3%	1 0%	0 0%	1 1%	8 1%	6 1%	2 3%	14 1%	2 6%	1 8%	2 1%	1 0%	14 2%	1 1%	5 1%	3 1%	8 2%
A = 4	163 12%	74 14%	83 10%	3 12%	11 11%	90 13%	48 11%	5 8%	145 11%	10 31%	2 17%	35 15%	25 11%	97 11%	23 14%	49 12%	36 11%	49 12%
SA = 5	1153 84%	399 77%	700 88%	17 65%	83 86%	571 84%	384 86%	53 84%	1080 85%	19 59%	9 75%	189 81%	192 87%	727 85%	142 84%	356 84%	275 86%	335 84%
DK = 0	19 1%	7 1%	7 1%	5 19%	1 1%	3 0%	4 1%	2 3%	14 1%	1 3%	0 0%	5 2%	1 0%	9 1%	1 1%	6 1%	2 1%	6 2%
Total	1367	515	794	26	96	678	446	63	1265	32	12	233	220	856	170	422	318	399
Mean	4.817	4.673	4.878	4.714	4.863	4.813	4.833	4.787	4.829	4.548	4.667	4.803	4.858	4.816	4.787	4.813	4.842	4.827
Top boxes (5&4)	14 1%	19 4%	3 0%	1 4%	0 0%	6 1%	4 1%	1 2%	12 1%	0 0%	0 0%	2 1%	1 0%	9 1%	3 2%	6 1%	2 1%	1 0%
Bottom (1&2)	1316 96%	473 92%	783 99%	20 77%	94 98%	661 97%	432 97%	58 92%	1225 97%	29 91%	11 92%	224 96%	217 99%	824 96%	165 97%	405 96%	311 98%	384 96%

4. Accommodating growth and economic development is more important than the conservation of natural areas.

	Total	Male	Female	<18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Visited	Not	DK	<5	5 to 10	10+	NE	NW	SE	SW
SD = 1	910 67%	305 84%	571 72%	13 50%	63 66%	440 65%	323 72%	44 70%	865 68%	12 38%	6 50%	151 65%	146 66%	586 68%	116 68%	276 65%	221 69%	270 68%
D = 2	362 26%	20 5%	190 24%	5 19%	27 28%	203 30%	101 23%	16 25%	337 27%	12 38%	3 25%	64 27%	61 28%	227 27%	50 29%	120 28%	79 25%	103 26%
N = 3	43 3%	20 5%	21 3%	1 4%	5 5%	24 4%	11 2%	1 2%	37 3%	3 9%	2 17%	11 5%	9 4%	22 3%	2 1%	13 3%	14 4%	13 3%
A = 4	13 1%	9 2%	3 0%	1 4%	0 0%	5 1%	5 1%	1 2%	9 1%	3 9%	0 0%	1 0%	1 0%	10 1%	1 1%	4 1%	1 0%	6 2%
SA = 5	12 1%	2 1%	8 1%	1 4%	0 0%	5 1%	4 1%	0 0%	8 1%	1 3%	1 8%	0 0%	3 1%	7 1%	1 1%	4 1%	1 0%	4 1%
DK = 0	27 2%	8 2%	1 0%	5 19%	1 1%	1 0%	2 0%	1 2%	9 1%	1 3%	0 0%	6 3%	0 0%	4 0%	0 0%	5 1%	2 1%	3 1%
Total	1367	364	794	26	96	678	446	63	1265	32	12	233	220	856	170	422	318	399
Mean	1.399	1.267	1.344	1.667	1.389	1.422	1.347	1.339	1.374	2.000	1.917	1.392	1.427	1.386	1.359	1.417	1.361	1.412
Top boxes (5&4)	1272 93%	325 89%	761 96%	18 69%	90 94%	643 95%	424 95%	60 95%	1202 95%	24 75%	9 75%	215 92%	207 94%	813 95%	166 98%	396 94%	300 94%	373 93%
Bottom (1&2)	25 2%	11 3%	11 1%	2 8%	0 0%	10 1%	9 2%	1 2%	17 1%	4 13%	1 8%	1 0%	4 2%	17 2%	2 1%	8 2%	2 1%	10 3%

5. The City of Edmonton should collaborate with developers to encourage the conservation and integration of as many natural areas in Edmonton as possible.

	Total		Male		Female		<18		18-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Visited		Not		DK		<5		5 to 10		10+		NE		NW		SE		SW	
SD = 1	23	2%	9	2%	14	2%	0	0%	0	0%	13	2%	8	2%	2	3%	23	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5	2%	18	2%	4	2%	5	1%	6	2%	8	2%
D = 2	15	1%	4	1%	6	1%	0	0%	0	0%	10	1%	4	1%	1	2%	15	1%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%	6	3%	6	1%	1	1%	6	1%	3	1%	5	1%
N = 3	19	1%	4	1%	12	2%	0	0%	0	0%	13	2%	5	1%	0	0%	18	1%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%	4	2%	11	1%	3	2%	6	1%	4	1%	5	1%
A = 4	235	17%	108	22%	119	15%	5	19%	19	20%	128	19%	69	15%	7	11%	216	17%	10	31%	2	17%	46	20%	34	15%	148	17%	35	21%	70	17%	60	19%	63	16%
SA = 5	1017	74%	363	73%	637	80%	14	54%	75	78%	510	75%	355	80%	52	83%	974	77%	22	69%	10	83%	172	74%	170	77%	664	78%	127	75%	325	77%	241	76%	313	78%
DK = 0	58	4%	12	2%	6	1%	7	27%	2	2%	4	1%	5	1%	1	2%	19	2%	0	0%	0	0%	9	4%	1	0%	9	1%	0	0%	10	2%	4	1%	5	1%
Total	1367		500		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399	
Mean	4.687		4.664		4.725		4.737		4.798		4.650		4.721		4.710		4.688		4.688		4.833		4.728		4.635		4.693		4.647		4.709		4.678		4.695	
Top boxes (5&4)	38	3%	13	3%	20	3%	0	0%	0	0%	23	3%	12	3%	3	5%	38	3%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%	11	5%	24	3%	5	3%	11	3%	9	3%	13	3%
Bottom 1&2)	1252	92%	471	94%	756	95%	19	73%	94	98%	638	94%	424	95%	59	94%	1190	94%	32	###	12	###	218	94%	204	93%	812	95%	162	95%	395	94%	301	95%	376	94%

6. The City of Edmonton should develop incentives to encourage the acquisition of natural areas and/or their conservation by developers.

	Total		Male		Female		<18		18-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Visited		Not		DK		<5		5 to 10		10+		NE		NW		SE		SW	
SD = 1	95	7%	33	6%	56	7%	1	4%	6	6%	48	7%	31	7%	4	6%	88	7%	2	6%	0	0%	15	6%	11	5%	64	7%	10	6%	32	8%	23	7%	25	6%
D = 2	55	4%	35	7%	33	4%	0	0%	2	2%	30	4%	22	5%	0	0%	51	4%	3	9%	0	0%	11	5%	6	3%	37	4%	4	2%	21	5%	14	4%	15	4%
N = 3	66	5%	35	7%	29	4%	1	4%	3	3%	37	5%	20	4%	4	6%	60	5%	3	9%	2	17%	9	4%	16	7%	40	5%	10	6%	22	5%	13	4%	20	5%
A = 4	284	21%	125	24%	156	20%	7	27%	30	31%	151	22%	84	19%	10	16%	270	21%	9	28%	3	25%	61	26%	37	17%	184	21%	43	25%	96	23%	76	24%	67	17%
SA = 5	734	54%	256	49%	463	58%	7	27%	47	49%	365	54%	264	59%	42	67%	706	56%	13	41%	6	50%	119	51%	128	58%	478	56%	97	57%	219	52%	164	52%	245	61%
DK = 0	133	10%	35	7%	57	7%	10	38%	8	8%	47	7%	25	6%	3	5%	90	7%	2	6%	1	8%	18	8%	22	10%	53	6%	6	4%	32	8%	28	9%	27	7%
Total	1367		519		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399	
Mean	4.221		4.107		4.271		4.188		4.250		4.197		4.254		4.433		4.238		3.933		4.364		4.200		4.338		4.214		4.299		4.151		4.186		4.323	
Top boxes (5&4)	150	11%	68	13%	89	11%	1	4%	8	8%	78	12%	53	12%	4	6%	139	11%	5	16%	0	0%	26	11%	17	8%	101	12%	14	8%	53	13%	37	12%	40	10%
Bottom 1&2)	1018	74%	381	73%	619	78%	14	54%	77	80%	516	76%	348	78%	52	83%	976	77%	22	69%	9	75%	180	77%	165	75%	662	77%	140	82%	315	75%	240	75%	312	78%

7. The conservation of natural areas within a neighbourhood enhances property values – that is, I am willing to pay more a home in close proximity to natural areas.

	Total		Male		Female		<18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Visited	Not	DK	<5	5 to 10	10+	NE	NW	SE	SW															
SD = 1	7	1%	3	1%	3	0%	0	0%	3	0%	4	1%	0	0%	6	0%	1	0%	2	0%	2	1%	3	1%												
D = 2	10	1%	23	4%	2	0%	0	0%	4	1%	3	1%	0	0%	8	1%	1	0%	1	0%	4	1%	3	1%												
N = 3	42	3%	23	4%	16	2%	0	0%	20	3%	14	3%	2	3%	34	3%	4	13%	2	17%	7	3%	6	3%	10	3%										
A = 4	296	22%	115	22%	168	21%	6	23%	32	33%	145	21%	88	20%	14	22%	269	21%	10	31%	6	50%	56	24%	42	19%	187	22%	36	21%	102	24%	73	23%	74	19%
SA = 5	978	72%	349	67%	598	75%	15	58%	56	58%	503	74%	333	75%	45	71%	933	74%	16	50%	3	25%	163	70%	170	77%	619	72%	124	73%	295	70%	230	72%	303	76%
DK = 0	34	2%	8	2%	7	1%	5	19%	2	2%	3	0%	4	1%	2	3%	15	1%	0	0%	1	8%	5	2%	2	1%	9	1%	3	2%	6	1%	1	0%	6	2%
Total	1367		521		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399	
Mean	4.671		4.528		4.723		4.714		4.511		4.690		4.681		4.705		4.692		4.219		4.091		4.662		4.752		4.659		4.695		4.651		4.656		4.707	
Top boxes (5&4)	17	1%	26	5%	5	1%	0	0%	2	2%	7	1%	7	2%	0	0%	14	1%	2	6%	0	0%	2	1%	0	0%	14	2%	1	1%	3	1%	6	2%	6	2%
Bottom 1&2)	1274	93%	464	89%	766	96%	21	81%	88	92%	648	96%	421	94%	59	94%	1202	95%	26	81%	9	75%	219	94%	212	96%	806	94%	160	94%	397	94%	303	95%	377	94%

8. Where feasible, the City of Edmonton should purchase natural areas on private land.

	Total		Male		Female		<18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Visited	Not	DK	<5	5 to 10	10+	NE	NW	SE	SW															
SD = 1	5	0%	1	0%	2	0%	0	0%	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	2	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%	1	0%		
D = 2	23	2%	51	9%	15	2%	0	0%	1	1%	17	3%	5	1%	0	0%	21	2%	2	6%	0	0%	6	3%	4	2%	13	2%	3	2%	7	2%	3	1%	10	3%
N = 3	132	10%	51	9%	79	10%	1	4%	8	8%	87	13%	30	7%	4	6%	124	10%	4	13%	2	17%	23	10%	27	12%	80	9%	16	9%	42	10%	34	11%	38	10%
A = 4	407	30%	169	31%	231	29%	7	27%	42	44%	225	33%	117	26%	12	19%	381	30%	15	47%	7	58%	77	33%	68	31%	258	30%	56	33%	125	30%	103	32%	119	30%
SA = 5	700	51%	260	47%	426	54%	11	42%	38	40%	323	48%	277	62%	43	68%	682	54%	8	25%	2	17%	113	48%	115	52%	464	54%	88	52%	224	53%	165	52%	215	54%
DK = 0	100	7%	16	3%	41	5%	7	27%	7	7%	23	3%	17	4%	4	6%	56	4%	1	3%	1	8%	14	6%	6	3%	38	4%	7	4%	24	6%	11	3%	16	4%
Total	1367		548		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399	
Mean	4.400		4.195		4.413		4.526		4.315		4.295		4.552		4.661		4.424		3.806		4.000		4.356		4.374		4.427		4.405		4.422		4.388		4.402	
Top boxes (5&4)	28	2%	52	9%	17	2%	0	0%	1	1%	20	3%	5	1%	0	0%	22	2%	4	13%	0	0%	6	3%	4	2%	16	2%	3	2%	7	2%	5	2%	11	3%
Bottom 1&2)	1107	81%	429	78%	657	83%	18	69%	80	83%	548	81%	394	88%	55	87%	1063	84%	23	72%	9	75%	190	82%	183	83%	722	84%	144	85%	349	83%	268	84%	334	84%

9. The City of Edmonton should harmonize its conservation goals with the conservation efforts of the governments of Canada and Alberta to support such plans as the provincial fisheries and wildlife management plans, the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and species-at-risk protection legislation.

	Total		Male		Female		<18		18-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Visited		Not		DK		<5		5 to 10		10+		NE		NW		SE		SW	
SD = 1	2	0%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%
D = 2	8	1%	30	6%	2	0%	1	4%	1	1%	3	0%	2	0%	0	0%	7	1%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%	0	0%	4	0%	1	1%	1	0%	3	1%	2	1%
N = 3	52	4%	30	6%	22	3%	1	4%	3	3%	29	4%	17	4%	2	3%	47	4%	2	6%	3	25%	9	4%	7	3%	36	4%	8	5%	21	5%	10	3%	13	3%
A = 4	341	25%	143	27%	194	24%	8	31%	33	34%	185	27%	98	22%	14	22%	318	25%	15	47%	5	42%	63	27%	60	27%	215	25%	48	28%	103	24%	86	27%	101	25%
SA = 5	865	63%	303	57%	543	68%	9	35%	56	58%	428	63%	317	71%	44	70%	837	66%	13	41%	4	33%	146	63%	141	64%	567	66%	110	65%	273	65%	204	64%	267	67%
DK = 0	99	7%	23	4%	32	4%	7	27%	3	3%	32	5%	11	2%	3	5%	55	4%	1	3%	0	0%	12	5%	12	5%	32	4%	3	2%	24	6%	14	4%	15	4%
Total	1367		530		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399	
Mean	4.624		4.414		4.675		4.316		4.548		4.604		4.674		4.700		4.639		4.258		4.083		4.593		4.644		4.627		4.599		4.628		4.609		4.643	
Top boxes (5&4)	10	1%	31	6%	3	0%	1	4%	1	1%	4	1%	3	1%	0	0%	8	1%	1	3%	0	0%	3	1%	0	0%	6	1%	1	1%	1	0%	4	1%	3	1%
Bottom 1&2)	1206	88%	446	84%	737	93%	17	65%	89	93%	613	90%	415	93%	58	92%	1155	91%	28	88%	9	75%	209	90%	201	91%	782	91%	158	93%	376	89%	290	91%	368	92%

10. The City of Edmonton should develop natural areas conservation policy with a view to maintaining 'corridors' or 'greenways' between natural areas – such as pedestrian trails and other green spaces – that provide routes for the movement of species between areas, the so-called 'network' approach.

	Total		Male		Female		<18		18-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Visited		Not		DK		<5		5 to 10		10+		NE		NW		SE		SW			
SD = 1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
D = 2	1	0%	12	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%
N = 3	30	2%	12	2%	17	2%	0	0%	3	3%	19	3%	7	2%	0	0%	26	2%	3	9%	0	0%	7	3%	2	1%	20	2%	2	1%	10	2%	8	3%	9	2%		
A = 4	256	19%	129	25%	116	15%	7	27%	20	21%	131	19%	77	17%	10	16%	225	18%	13	41%	7	58%	47	20%	40	18%	158	18%	40	24%	71	17%	64	20%	70	18%		
SA = 5	1040	76%	356	69%	652	82%	14	54%	71	74%	522	77%	358	80%	52	83%	997	79%	15	47%	5	42%	173	74%	178	81%	666	78%	126	74%	334	79%	241	76%	316	79%		
DK = 0	40	3%	7	1%	9	1%	5	19%	2	2%	6	1%	3	1%	1	2%	16	1%	1	3%	0	0%	6	3%	0	0%	11	1%	2	1%	7	2%	4	1%	4	1%		
Total	1367		516		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399			
Mean	4.760		4.629		4.809		4.667		4.723		4.749		4.788		4.839		4.776		4.387		4.417		4.731		4.800		4.762		4.738		4.781		4.736		4.777			
Top boxes (5&4)	1	0%	12	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%
Bottom 1&2)	1296	95%	485	94%	768	97%	21	81%	91	95%	653	96%	435	98%	62	98%	1222	97%	28	88%	12	###	220	94%	218	99%	824	96%	166	98%	405	96%	305	96%	386	97%		

11. The protection of natural areas is a shared responsibility. The City of Edmonton should enter into partnerships with other governments and non-governmental organizations to conserve natural areas.

	Total		Male		Female		<18		18-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Visited		Not		DK		<5		5 to 10		10+		NE		NW		SE		SW	
SD = 1	2	0%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%	1	1%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%
D = 2	3	0%	8	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%	1	0%	0	0%	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	2	0%	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%
N = 3	34	2%	8	2%	25	3%	1	4%	2	2%	20	3%	10	2%	0	0%	30	2%	3	9%	0	0%	4	2%	7	3%	22	3%	7	4%	10	2%	5	2%	11	3%
A = 4	355	26%	160	31%	185	23%	7	27%	33	34%	191	28%	102	23%	13	21%	327	26%	13	41%	6	50%	72	31%	59	27%	215	25%	38	22%	125	30%	94	30%	89	22%
SA = 5	935	68%	326	64%	574	72%	13	50%	59	61%	457	67%	330	74%	49	78%	886	70%	16	50%	6	50%	151	65%	151	69%	606	71%	120	71%	280	66%	215	68%	293	73%
DK = 0	38	3%	8	2%	8	1%	5	19%	2	2%	7	1%	2	0%	1	2%	17	1%	0	0%	0	0%	5	2%	3	1%	9	1%	2	1%	7	2%	3	1%	5	1%
Total	1367		511		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399	
Mean	4.669		4.594		4.692		4.571		4.606		4.641		4.709		4.790		4.676		4.406		4.500		4.636		4.664		4.678		4.631		4.651		4.657		4.711	
Top boxes (5&4)	5	0%	9	2%	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	0%	2	0%	0	0%	5	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	4	0%	3	2%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%
Bottom (1&2)	1290	94%	486	95%	759	96%	20	77%	92	96%	648	96%	432	97%	62	98%	1213	96%	29	91%	12	####	223	96%	210	95%	821	96%	158	93%	405	96%	309	97%	382	96%

12. In June 2006, the City of Edmonton became a partner with the Edmonton Community Foundation, Edmonton Nature Club, Urban Development Institute, Legacy Lands Conservation Society and the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada to create the Edmonton Land Trust. City Council will consider a proposal during its 2007 budget deliberations to provide a \$2.5 million endowment to cover operational expenses. The City should provide operational support to the Edmonton Land Trust that will better enable it to receive donations from private landowners of natural areas.

	Total		Male		Female		<18		18-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Visited		Not		DK		<5		5 to 10		10+		NE		NW		SE		SW			
SD = 1	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%
D = 2	12	1%	28	5%	7	1%	0	0%	1	1%	8	1%	3	1%	0	0%	9	1%	3	9%	0	0%	2	1%	2	1%	8	1%	0	0%	3	1%	2	1%	7	2%		
N = 3	73	5%	28	5%	43	5%	2	8%	5	5%	47	7%	17	4%	0	0%	67	5%	3	9%	1	8%	17	7%	10	5%	44	5%	13	8%	18	4%	13	4%	27	7%		
A = 4	427	31%	178	34%	246	31%	7	27%	39	41%	244	36%	120	27%	14	22%	401	32%	15	47%	8	67%	88	38%	78	35%	258	30%	61	36%	146	35%	111	35%	106	27%		
SA = 5	729	53%	270	51%	443	56%	9	35%	40	42%	342	50%	284	64%	45	71%	706	56%	11	34%	3	25%	114	49%	115	52%	491	57%	90	53%	222	53%	172	54%	236	59%		
DK = 0	125	9%	23	4%	55	7%	8	31%	11	11%	37	5%	22	5%	3	5%	81	6%	0	0%	0	0%	12	5%	15	7%	54	6%	6	4%	33	8%	20	6%	22	6%		
Total	1367		528		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399			
Mean	4.506		4.362		4.522		4.389		4.388		4.435		4.616		4.700		4.522		4.063		4.167		4.421		4.493		4.534		4.470		4.509		4.520		4.509			
Top boxes (5&4)	13	1%	29	5%	7	1%	0	0%	1	1%	8	1%	3	1%	1	2%	10	1%	3	9%	0	0%	2	1%	2	1%	9	1%	0	0%	3	1%	2	1%	8	2%		
Bottom (1&2)	1156	85%	448	85%	689	87%	16	62%	79	82%	586	86%	404	91%	59	94%	1107	88%	26	81%	11	92%	202	87%	193	88%	749	88%	151	89%	368	87%	283	89%	342	86%		

13. Protection of the environment is a federal and provincial responsibility and the City of Edmonton has limited authority under the Municipal Government Act (Alberta) to implement conservation measures. The Province should provide municipalities with new powers to protect and conserve natural areas.

	Total		Male		Female		<18		18-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Visited		Not		DK		<5		5 to 10		10+		NE		NW		SE		SW	
SD = 1	7	1%	1	0%	5	1%	1	4%	0	0%	3	0%	2	0%	0	0%	5	0%	1	3%	0	0%	2	1%	0	0%	4	0%	0	0%	2	0%	1	0%	3	1%
D = 2	25	2%	33	6%	10	1%	0	0%	4	4%	14	2%	7	2%	0	0%	22	2%	3	9%	0	0%	6	3%	4	2%	15	2%	3	2%	11	3%	2	1%	9	2%
N = 3	89	7%	33	6%	55	7%	1	4%	6	6%	59	9%	21	5%	1	2%	81	6%	6	19%	1	8%	17	7%	22	10%	49	6%	13	8%	25	6%	22	7%	28	7%
A = 4	405	30%	163	31%	237	30%	7	27%	35	36%	227	33%	124	28%	9	14%	384	30%	10	31%	8	67%	65	28%	73	33%	264	31%	51	30%	145	34%	103	32%	103	26%
SA = 5	714	52%	264	50%	439	55%	9	35%	46	48%	335	49%	270	61%	48	76%	696	55%	11	34%	1	8%	123	53%	107	49%	478	56%	98	58%	207	49%	169	53%	234	59%
DK = 0	127	9%	29	6%	48	6%	8	31%	5	5%	40	6%	22	5%	5	8%	77	6%	1	3%	2	17%	20	9%	14	6%	46	5%	5	3%	32	8%	21	7%	22	6%
Total	1367		523		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399	
Mean	4.447		4.328		4.468		4.278		4.352		4.375		4.540		4.810		4.468		3.871		4.000		4.413		4.374		4.478		4.479		4.395		4.471		4.475	
Top boxes (5&4)	32	2%	34	7%	15	2%	1	4%	4	4%	17	3%	9	2%	0	0%	27	2%	4	13%	0	0%	8	3%	4	2%	19	2%	3	2%	13	3%	3	1%	12	3%
Bottom 1&2)	1119	82%	427	82%	676	85%	16	62%	81	84%	562	83%	394	88%	57	90%	1080	85%	21	66%	9	75%	188	81%	180	82%	742	87%	149	88%	352	83%	272	86%	337	84%

14. The federal government provides tax incentives for the donation of ecologically sensitive land to approved conservation charities and has reduced the capital gains tax on such land to zero. In a complementary decision, the City approved the creation of the Ecological Conservation Assistance Program to cover the reasonable costs (legal, accounting, surveying, etc.) to landowners of making a donation to the City of Edmonton. The City should invest in a campaign to raise awareness of this program among landowners.

	Total		Male		Female		<18		18-24		25-44		45-64		65+		Visited		Not		DK		<5		5 to 10		10+		NE		NW		SE		SW			
SD = 1	2	0%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%
D = 2	7	1%	39	7%	4	1%	0	0%	0	0%	6	1%	1	0%	0	0%	6	0%	1	3%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%	5	1%	0	0%	4	1%	0	0%	3	1%		
N = 3	85	6%	39	7%	45	6%	2	8%	5	5%	51	8%	24	5%	2	3%	80	6%	3	9%	1	8%	13	6%	17	8%	54	6%	17	10%	24	6%	18	6%	25	6%		
A = 4	465	34%	182	34%	276	35%	7	27%	45	47%	262	39%	134	30%	13	21%	441	35%	12	38%	8	67%	91	39%	81	37%	289	34%	57	34%	152	36%	126	40%	126	32%		
SA = 5	715	52%	261	48%	442	56%	10	38%	39	41%	340	50%	274	61%	44	70%	690	55%	15	47%	2	17%	119	51%	111	50%	477	56%	91	54%	222	53%	161	51%	233	58%		
DK = 0	93	7%	19	4%	26	3%	7	27%	6	6%	19	3%	12	3%	4	6%	46	4%	1	3%	1	8%	9	4%	10	5%	29	3%	5	3%	20	5%	12	4%	11	3%		
Total	1367		541		794		26		96		678		446		63		1265		32		12		233		220		856		170		422		318		399			
Mean	4.479		4.270		4.503		4.421		4.344		4.420		4.565		4.712		4.486		4.323		4.091		4.464		4.438		4.492		4.448		4.473		4.458		4.513			
Top boxes (5&4)	9	1%	40	7%	5	1%	0	0%	1	1%	6	1%	2	0%	0	0%	8	1%	1	3%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%	7	1%	0	0%	4	1%	1	0%	4	1%		
Bottom 1&2)	1180	86%	443	82%	718	90%	17	65%	84	88%	602	89%	408	91%	57	90%	1131	89%	27	84%	10	83%	210	90%	192	87%	766	89%	148	87%	374	89%	287	90%	359	90%		

Appendix Four: Survey respondent written comments

Survey respondents' comments have been edited to remove names or other information that might be used to identify a respondent or someone else referred to within a message. Obvious typographical errors have been corrected; otherwise, comments are as provided by survey respondents.

1. If the city of Edmonton continues down its current path of urban sprawl, as opposed to concentrating population downtown, significant portions of natural area must be protected from housing developers. Better connectivity (both ecologically and access infrastructure) of river valley and "tablelands" natural areas must be developed so citizens can fully appreciate our beautiful city.
2. Natural Areas are a vital key to healthy living and healthy growth in our city.
3. All three levels of government need to work together to more clearly outline responsibilities for environmental protection within city limits. Developers need stricter rules to maintain natural areas; I like the idea of having developers have to "work around" or "work with" natural areas. I am disappointed that developers have been allowed to destroy important old forest growth around 111 St. and Ellerslie Road.
4. Once these areas are gone, they are gone forever. It is up to us to save as much land as we can for species biodiversity as well as recreational use. 9% does not seem like very much.
5. The natural spaces in Edmonton are by far my favourite parts of the city. I would be really disappointed to see them go in favour of more development as I believe that these areas shape the image of the city, both for Edmontonians and to visitors.
If there must be development in natural spaces, I would like to see effort to preserve as many of the ecosystems unique to our area, and development should be limited to the least sensitive ecosystems.
6. Natural areas are a critical component of the City's natural capital and as such provide the foundation for sustaining a wide range of values and benefits associated with social and economic capital. The protection of natural areas within the urban landscape contributes to the quality of life of its citizens and visitors alike. Natural areas within urban jurisdictions should be an integral part of an integrated approach to protect global biodiversity.
7. Natural areas are an important part of Edmonton - we need to save them.
8. I think that it is very important for the city to invest in maintaining (and acquiring new) natural areas.
9. One of my main reasons for choosing to move to Edmonton was its network of valleys, ravines, and natural parkland. My brother now wants to move here for the same reason.
Reducing/eliminating the greenspaces destroys the city's identity and will reduce property prices - any property which is anywhere near a green-space is valued significantly higher - and the more natural the space, the higher the property value.
Natural areas also provide a wonderful incentive to people to get more exercise by exploring them, and area valuable learning experience for children.
There is plenty of land around Edmonton, of all types, so really there should be no need to destroy the valuable Natural Areas.
10. I think that conservation of our natural spaces is of paramount priority and would appreciate the city doing more to promote and protect them. The destruction of natural areas in favor of civic monuments - such as Churchill square - is a mistake that should not be repeated. I would appreciate this city council doing everything it can to protect our precious natural areas and resources and fully support an initiative and council that seeks to do so.

11. With the strength of the economy in Northern Alberta Edmonton and Calgary are extremely well placed to be a leader in environmental protection and sustainability. We, as Edmontonians, are proud to be a part of an exceptionally green city and this should continue with the expansion of our community.
12. Without a clean environment we have nothing.
13. I am in favour of any attempt by Edmonton to maintain at least 10% in natural areas and to ascertain that each area is at least 10 acres. Permits for future developments must not be given unless this is clearly stated.
14. I have spent many hours birding in Edmonton's parks, river valley and ravines and am very grateful that one can do that - very enjoyable and good exercise too. I am also very concerned about the preservation of our environment.
15. We need to keep green spaces alive! Species will be eliminated, natural balances disturbed and a living community dies. People and nature can co-exist and thrive if proper care is taken in planning our communities. The time is now to protect our environment which can't speak for itself!
16. lets help keep our city Natural
17. Edmonton is known as the "river city", it should be kept that way. the river valley is used in a recreationally responsible way by myself and thousands of others every day of the year. in my opinion it is the biggest attraction the city has. i would likely move to calgary to be closer to the mountains.
18. Isolated, token preservation of natural areas won't work. Continuous ecosystem management and enhancement is what is needed. We need strong legislation to preclude situations like the destruction of Little Mountain. Just because someone "owns" the land shouldn't mean they can do anything they want with it if it is against the public/natural good.
19. The valley system of parks is the best thing going for Edmonton. I have yet to encounter any other city that can equal it. Urban natural areas on the table land, however, are at the greatest risk. The onslaught of construction is happening at an alarming rate and it is therefore important that there be a strong counter to balance this trend.
20. Once the natural areas are gone, they will never come back again. Constructed natural areas do not perform nearly as well as original natural areas. Developers should be ashamed of themselves for bulldozing natural areas. Clearly many of them do not have a conscience about this sort of thing, so it is up to the public to tell the developers what we want.
21. Two of this city's greatest assets are the River Valley Park Network and its natural areas. It would be a disaster if new housing developments are allowed to deplete this limited supply of natural areas. The city needs to realize that once with take it away they can not put it back.
22. The City of Edmonton must strongly re-think its approach to expansion and growth. Medium and high-density housing with interconnected green spaces and public transportation options should become the norm for new development.
23. I think it is of prime importance that we stop destroying the wetlands and other natural areas in and around our city. In view of recent studies on the availability of water in the upcoming years, we are required to do anything we can to protect the water sources.
Besides that, the charm of our city would be greatly diminished by the loss of the wildlife, birds and plants found in so many of these natural areas. They should take first place in our planning and humans can, for a change, take second.
24. A tool not mentioned in the survey might be to facilitate the development of higher-density infill projects. For instance, some of the high-density housing projects proposed in the Strathearn area seemed a reasonable

solution to urban sprawl as well as developing the necessary population density required to improve public transit in these areas. The City needs some sort of tool to mediate disagreements between local residents and developers. I am not in favour of, say, 20-storey high-rises but replacement of aging structures with larger ones (within reason) seems a viable option. The ability to over-ride knee-jerk reactions from local residents about change and increase in traffic would be useful. In my limited experience, local residents are very reluctant to embrace change and fail to see the potential benefits of increasing density: large tax base in the area to drive infrastructure development, growing market for small local businesses, and increased use of public transportation which would ultimately reduce traffic. The old model of large lots and quiet neighborhoods no longer seems sustainable. Increasing higher-density housing developments would reduce the demand to develop existing natural areas.

25. Edmonton's "wild" green areas are some of the most pleasing and charming aspects of this city. The biodiversity of plants and animals and birds is amazing. To find a deer grazing beside a bike trail at twilight, a porcupine who has wandered up from the ravine to check out my backyard, the variety of fall migrants who stop here for a while, the awesome delight of finding a lady's slipper in bloom in the ravine - these are treasures of priceless wonder.
More public awareness and education as to what natural areas mean to the city and the people living here and to generations to come would be helpful.
It would be an incredible undertaking - but to introduce school kids, from Gr.s 1 - 12 to the beauty and variety of nature, not for marks, but for sheer pleasure, is something I would like to see.
I fear, at the moment, you are preaching to the converted or to those who only see crime and violence in untamed areas of the city.
26. I welcome the initiative of the City of Edmonton, to seriously look at the conservation of our natural areas in addition to the preservation of our cultural and historic landmarks. Protected areas are a major factor in attracting and retaining citizens of Edmonton and it is important for the city to encourage stewardship of our land.
27. WE need to look forward at our environment. Conservation area's, limiting urban sprawl, reducing traffic. increasing electric transit INCLUDING TROLLEY BUS and LRT service should be top priorities and we need to stop abusing our environment.
Thank You
28. It is important to have different levels of recreation occur in different parks. The city has a number of multi-use areas now but very few dedicated natural locations that are left to rehabilitate to historical fauna. The river valley is an excellent example of a natural space.
29. I'm proud that the City of Edmonton is thinking about this issue and recognizes the urgency of the situation. I would recommend that the City also consider the Earth Charter (www.earthcharter.org) as an important resource for guiding our actions on this issue.
30. Folk talk about the "heart of a city" being it's downtown core.... in Edmonton, I feel the heart, the spirit of our city is the river that gives us and all living things life. When we reduce the natural areas, we are negating the importance of the "spirit" of our people, reducing us to those concrete a steel dwellers without hope.
31. I have always been proud of Edmonton leading the way in Canada as a leader in sustainable, green initiatives that increase our quality of life as citizens. The city needs to continue the legacy that has been started and incorporate more meaningful natural area that will support our healthful living choices and learning opportunities to reconnect with nature in accessible areas as part our of GREEN city.
32. We must stop thinking in terms of Conservation VS Growth and begin to explore ways to understand Conservation as a compliment to Growth.

33. I am very happy that the city is undertaking a review of its natural areas policies. I think this is an important, and often overlooked, issue. Even though municipalities may have limited jurisdiction to deal with conservation issues, municipalities must do what they can to preserve and protect natural areas from the pace and scale economic development and growth which the province is experiencing.
34. Natural Areas have a real economic value to the city. Any short-term investment burden by the city, yields considerable saving and benefits, in real monetary terms, back to the City over a long term payoff period. This applies to both the maintenance and improvement of existing sites, and the attainment of new ones. Total annual investment in natural areas should be directly linked as a percentage per capita, and not in comparison to the geographic size of Edmonton's corporate boundaries.
35. What I particular dislike is development for houses on the slopes of the river bank. The "rich etc" will enjoy the benefits of nature conservation while destroying this benefit for others. A most hideous state of affairs I can imagine.
36. I think this survey is an excellent idea! As with waste management, I hope that the City can soon also claim to lead the way in the protection of natural areas in the city (and wildlife corridors between them), despite extreme economic pressure (land value, house prices).
My work office is located right on the river valley and all around us landowners are 'developing' their land for housing. If this trend continues we will be an oasis of trees and an isolated protected natural area in the river valley - in the short term.
37. As my responses suggest, I am strongly in favor of preservation of Edmonton's natural areas. An important tool in such preservation is to curb the sprawling development pattern that Edmonton has followed for the past 20 years. With more density and the less sprawl, there will be less pressure on natural areas. Edmonton has the authority to insist on less urban sprawl and denser development. It has just refused to use that authority to any great extent. Lets curb urban sprawl, make diverse, culturally rich, walkable, the densely populated neighborhoods, AND preserve a rich network of natural areas within city limits.
38. Natural areas are the soul of the city. Without them, development is destroying the point of living here.
39. It is Edmonton's River valley that has kept me, a young professional, from moving to Ontario.
40. It is important to further the inclusion of natural landscapes into the city's growing urban developments, but if a choice had to made to respond to resource limitations, the river valley should remain the top priority for resource allocation.
41. I am extremely concerned about urban sprawl. The city is developing so far out and eating up more and more land. There should be more redevelopment inside the city, perhaps on former industrial lands. Multi-family housing should be encouraged. Heritage areas should NOT be touched however, we do not want to repeat the monumental screw of city council in the 1960's when the library and courthouse were torn down. Just because we have the land now doesn't mean that it needs to be developed.
42. I live in the river valley so I can see first hand (over 27 years) how this proximity to nature has benefited my family intellectually and spiritually. It has made it easier to raise an environmentally - aware child in the heart of a large city.
43. It is absolutely imperative to conserve and in instances of unique and rare habitat, preserve these natural areas throughout Edmonton. May it be incorporation in neighborhood design or as a municipal reserve! Developers and homeowners alike must be educated and accept that sustainable and eco-friendly neighborhood design and practice is a must, not just an interesting concept. It is too easy to clear, fill and plow through our existing natural areas with the idiom that there are plenty of areas left. The majority of our natural habitats are facing extinction throughout the central park region. Old growth, and even mature stands of Aspen, Balsam, and Spruce are soon to be a distant memory! A proactive municipal management strategy (with teeth) for our

natural areas is the only fore seeable plan of action that will work. Reactive strategies should be retired or better yet, blue boxed!

44. The amount of natural areas and parks is one of the best reasons to live in Edmonton. If we lose these areas or do not consider new areas as the city expands the quality of life is reduced for everyone including our animal friends.
45. I feel green areas are very important to a persons well being (mental & physical health). Edmonton has a wonderful network of green spaces- that is one of the things that makes this city such a wonderful place to live. I hope that the cities network of parks and green areas will continue to grow with the city. Thanks for this chance to contribute.
46. Edmonton has done a far job preserving the river valley and should be commended on that. It should remain as natural as possible.
47. The City should use all tools available to it ensure natural areas are an integral part of new development and that all development is done in the most ecologically, socially and aesthetically sound way.
48. Edmonton should look at what Calgary is doing with funds they get from ENMAX to preserve natural naturals and do the same with EPCOR. I believe \$25 to 35 million is allocated. Edmonton needs to increase the amount dedicated to protecting these areas because you often only get one chance to do so.
We have a great river valley that will only continue to be great if we protect it from over development. Need to consider lager corridors with other municipalities i.e. River Valley Alliance. Think regional!
Need to expand the Environmental reserves definition in the Municipal Government Act so more environmentally sensitive areas can be protected. Need to consider what size of a city is sustainable in the long run and we are probably already approaching those limits. Growth is not desirable at any cost and more and more urban sprawl comes at a cost to the quality of life in the City.
Learn from Calgary. They have had two significant parcels of land provided recently that will become parks, one provincial. Our river valley should be the equivalent of Fish Creek in Calgary which was the first provincial urban park.
49. Edmonton's natural areas are what make Edmonton an exciting and vibrant place to be. We need to ensure these areas are conserved for our children.
50. The green space in Edmonton is our best feature. By extending the protection to natural areas outside of the designated green space you will continue to ensure that our city's best feature is the natural areas.
51. It is vital that the city preserve as many natural areas as possible and keep this in mind with any new development. We need to preserve habitat for the biological species wherever possible especially as the city pushes further out.
52. Question 6 is confusing. I think developers should be encouraged to conserve natural areas, but I can't say what I think about whether they should be incented to acquire them if there is the likelihood they would be developed. So I had to say "I don't know" to this one. Generally, the use of "and/or" does not add clarity.
53. The river valley is a beautiful and fragile resource in Edmonton. I love spending time there and think that anything and everything should be done to protect it and other natural spaces in Edmonton!
54. Edmonton's biggest drawing feature is the trail system and the parks. If Edmonton didn't have these we would have moved to Vancouver.
55. I think it's great that the City is considering shared stewardship and increased partnerships with other orders of government in this project. This fits in very nicely with the integrated approach to land management that the

Government of Alberta is trying to enact through the departments of Environment, Energy, and Sustainable Resource Development. Good luck!

56. Its great to see the City interested in planning for the future and considering environmental outcomes for this. Once the development takes place the ability to change things is not there, so building environmental/nature considerations into development is the smart way to go. Thank you.
57. i think that we should protect natural areas .who cares if the people want to come here, let theme find there own places
58. I think we should protect the natural areas so that we can have a place for the animals can have a place to run.
59. how many places in edmonton there are? just tell me the number
60. Edmonton's natural areas are one of the reasons I choose to make my home in this city. I think it's critical for us to protect existing areas and create new green spaces to continue to support biodiversity and improve our quality of life in an urban centre.
61. Work to conserve biodiversity, connectivity, and management of urban natural areas. Work with Urban Dvlp Inst. and others to ensure a certain percentage of any new development contain a functioning natural area(s). A small price to pay to support the environment we need to exist.
62. Question #6 could be a little more clear. The way it was worded made it difficult to understand its meaning.
63. The challenge will how to maintain a multi-use philosophy when use of any kind can diminish a natural area. I feel that accepting that there is a difference between a natural area and an urban natural area might help to move things along.
64. The City has been doing an excellent job of conserving natural areas in the Sask. R. and Whitemud Creek valleys. I would encourage the City to continue to do so.
65. I live near Mill Creek and walk my dog in the off leash park every day. I also enjoy skiing and birding in Mill Creek and have seen coyotes in the ravine. This area definitely enriches my life and improves my overall wellbeing. Green spaces are necessary to maintain cities as attractive places to live. In an ever growing economy and shrinking wildlife habitat, conservation and pro-thinking is required before these areas are lost. Not only are natural spaces good for wildlife, they're good for people!
66. The second last question is misleading: it say that municipalities have little authority under the MGA to affect conservation. This is in fact not true: municipalities have complete authority over city lands. The City can chose to sell development permits or not. The City can allow urban spread or not -e.g. Okotoks is doing it, some US cities are doing it -just set boundaries to increase densification / or increase the cost of development permits on the edges of Edmonton. I've lived in both Edmonton and Calgary -Calgary has far more green space, and as a result I was happier living their. The city of Edmonton needs to build some green space back into the City -- aside from just the River Valley. Natural wetlands would be a place to start.
67. Development is proceeding at an exponential rate and house sizes are increasing dramatically. There must be a proactive approach to conserving representative natural areas, working with developers to maintain some of these areas and putting a limit to the growth of Edmonton: increase urban density and stop the expansion of the City outwards into natural and agricultural areas. Make people who live in outlying suburbs pay the true cost of living there (roads for example) instead of having those living closer subsidizing this.
68. I feel very strongly that Edmonton should work to acquire and protect Natural Areas, and that where possible corridors linking natural areas are extremely important to ecosystem functioning.

Question 6 is unclear to me: is it asking whether developers should acquire natural areas, or should Edmonton buy land from developers? I think that Natural areas should belong to the city. I think restrictions on development in natural areas should be absolute and enforced. The river valley and natural areas is what makes the city of Edmonton a special place, and is personally the quality of the city that I am most endeared by. Thank you.

69. I think that we should protect the park land by building tall houses so not only one small family but two families so please do not remove parks to make house and building love XXXX XXXX
70. I moved to Edmonton from Toronto 15 years ago. I moved to Victoria but returned again to Edmonton. I consider the presence of natural areas within the city, along with the rich arts community key, to the high quality of life I enjoy in Edmonton. I strongly encourage you to make the protection and conservation of this areas a priority activity. This includes careful thought regarding the development of adjacent lands so that they do not degrade the quality of these natural areas.
71. Re questions 5 & 6, regarding collaboration of City with developers: I only marked "agree," and maybe would have marked "disagree" if I was more certain of the meaning of the questions. If the implication is that the City we should try to encourage developers...rather than doing that in ADDITION to other things I marked "strongly agree", then fine. If the questions meant collaboration with developers INSTEAD OF the City's doing the other things I "strongly agreed" with, then forget it; I totally disagree. I don't trust developers at all! Living in Riverdale, I know how a developer and the lawyer representing the developer (United) can promise and/or lie, and then do whatever they please after they've gotten what they asked for. No trust for developers at all!
72. the questions about working with developers was difficult to answer as i think the time is long past for the city to have their own development department and do away with private developers
73. I'm glad that some natural areas have been left in the river valley. I would like to see much more of that throughout the city.
74. it is important to keep as much natural areas as possible in this ever growing city
75. Edmonton's ribbon of green makes the city a great place to live and is one of my favourite aspects of the city.
76. The concept of "wildlife corridors" is still largely unrecognized -- the city really does need to publicize the difference between "islands" of natural areas and the need for both natural areas and connective corridors.
77. We have a chance now to preserve some natural areas. Let's do so.
78. Natural areas such as the river valley are often abused and littered with broken glass and garbage. As a citizen and user of these areas, I clean up such garbage that I encounter. I would like to participate in organized cleanups, but they do not exist. If you create them, some people will help.
79. Please protect our natural areas as much as possible. The health of the people depends on the health of ecosystems. Another idea would be to create incentive for developers or home owners to revitalize their land (i.e. by planting trees, cleaning their area, etc.).
80. I have to wonder how the building of condo's along the busy street near the Muttart Conservatory got passed; especially on the river side of the street. I always thought that the river valley was safe from development!!
81. I cannot emphasize enough, how important Edmonton's natural areas are to my quality of life. While I am concerned that Alberta's focus on economic opportunities is destructive and short-sighted, I am also confident that public awareness and long-term thinking will enable us to have a healthy, viable future that includes natural areas. We are in a position to develop a city that is rich in quality, and I believe that a crucial part of that quality is integrating ecologically viable natural areas into the urban and suburban landscape.

82. With the increase in developers actively buying up land we need to be aware of potential loss to the remaining natural areas. Awareness and action needs to be acted on before it is too late to do anything about it.
83. I depend on the City to take as +aggressive+ a stance in protecting natural areas as developers do in leveling habitat. Only government can do this effectively because only govt has enough clout to meet developers eye-to-eye on a level playing field.
84. The city planners had done good work by maintaining the river valley natural and useable to its citizens. Please maintain that spirit by avoiding development of the valleys.
85. Once areas are covered with urban living they are no longer accessible to be natural again. saving as much natural area's as possible is good for humans and wildlife
86. So many natural areas have already been lost to development. Please act quickly to protect what remains.
87. I think the City should go beyond the Federal and Provincial gov's plans and incentives.. We should do everything we can to put Edmonton in the books as the greenest city in AB, if not in Canada. Sadly we are far behind American cities in getting a green plan.. And seriously, who cares if the Province or the Feds have or are planning a green plan. WE should have one and implement it as soon as possible. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) by example.
88. Truly "natural" areas of native plant growth (as opposed to landscaped parks are important to maintain – need protection. Encourage volunteers -I am one in the "Thistle patrol" - ENG
89. We have missed most of the opportunities in the past - it about time we all tried harder to keep what is left.
90. I find that Edmonton's Natural Areas are not only valuable for conserving habitats, but also promotes more of a community spirit because it allows us (Edmonton's citizens) to be active and socialize in the beautiful outdoors.
91. The 'Ribbon of Green' is what makes Edmonton a great place to live! The more we can do to enhance the natural areas of the city, the higher will be the quality of life over the next few hundred years.
92. Protection of natural areas should extend beyond the river valley and valley slopes
93. There have been too many instances in Edmonton where developers have totally destroyed natural areas, just for a few more lots to be developed. We must take drastic action before we lose the opportunity to save some natural spaces in our city. Our province is driven by a machine called greed and it is time to slow down and preserve some of natural areas. I encourage the City to take swift and bold action in this regard. A few dollars on our taxes will be well worth it.
94. Our natural areas are what make Edmonton a great city. Even small areas such as the paths and hills that run down 91st street (south of 51 Ave) greatly enhance quality of life. These areas not only connect the Millwoods path system to Mill Creek, but provide great sledding for kids in the winter etc. and are therefore important to the community. When developing new areas and subdivisions, networks of paths and parks should not be optional to developers.
95. I believe this is a very important topic that should be dealt with intelligently and in a sustainable manner. I think that by protecting more natural areas within and around the city, we can limit excessive urban sprawl, and perhaps contribute to intelligent development of the city. A commitment to preserving natural spaces within the city is one of the first steps to building a sustainable, healthy, thriving city. Good Luck!!
96. The City of Edmonton is a great place with lots of green space. However many of the corridors have been removed and areas that were once abundant with wildlife and nature are disappearing, such as on Ellerslie road.

I realize that Edmonton is a booming community how ever we need to keep our natural areas or we wont have any thing to relax with.

97. Is there a way to make this survey more available to other Edmontonians? I found it simply by accident and it's an extremely important questionnaire.
98. The conservation of natural areas should not stop growth and development, however growth and development can not override the need to conserve natural areas. The approach should be balanced, however you won't please everyone all the time.
99. I feel this is an extremely important issue in our City and I'm glad to see that it is getting some attention.
100. The City of Edmonton should have a long term concrete plan for developing and maintaining a network of natural areas that links the core river valley and ravine system with the tablelands. This network should be an integral and high priority component of the City's overall growth and development plans. The proper design and location of transportation networks are of particular importance to the maintenance of natural areas and biodiversity. In the past, transportation networks that intersect the river valley and ravine system have had a major impact on the connectivity of natural systems and safe movement of associated wildlife. The City of Edmonton should establish a major fund, through a special tax levy on developers for the purpose of funding the Natural Areas program and the purchase of private land natural areas that meet the long term objectives of the natural areas network.
101. Edmonton's Natural Areas are one of the best natural areas network in Canada. With all the expected increased growth in the Edmonton region, it is important that the city maintain this high standard of natural area protection. It is already evident in new subdivisions on the edge of the city (e.g. Ellerslie Road) that there is a lack of natural areas planning. So far, it is evident that development in these areas is focused on the most 'bang for your buck' principals instead of creating natural areas to support the wildlife and plant communities that have lived and survived there for years before.
- The city needs to look into strategies for improving natural area networks within these ever-growing new subdivisions. There must be a plan to build these communities with the natural environment in mind. Not just clearing everything and building houses, with a man-made pond in the middle with some trees planted around it. Maintain the natural areas that existed before the development.
102. The city must be forward thinking so that precious natural areas are preserved from future development. The biodiversity and plant/animal communities are NOT replaceable once destroyed. Plant species require a special combination of soil organisms (fungal partners, etc) and once land is plowed (or paved) you DO NOT get it back the way it was, and many species cannot return. PLEASE invest money NOW in keeping natural areas, and ensure legislation so that they will not constantly be under future threat.
103. One of the most beautiful tracts of land, a nature corridor in and of itself, is the McTaggart Sanctuary land that lies along the shores of the Whitemud and Blackmud Creeks between 23rd Avenue and Ellerslie Road. It is a tract of land that is seeing a lot of pedestrian visitors, and that is a wonderful thing. The parking area for this park was reduced in size a few years ago. It needs to be increased, as weekends see people parking very dangerously along the non-existent shoulders of 23rd Ave. there. I applaud the designers of the Henday bridge where it crosses the Whitemud Creek... its design is beautiful and functional... not just as a means by which traffic can move over a sensitive natural area, but as a means by which wildlife can access and move safely through that amazing tract of land. I would like to see a public access point to the trails there on the Henday, as parking on the side of the highway is simply too dangerous. A public awareness sign that labels that nature area from the highway, as you pass over the bridge would be a good idea too. The more people that know about an ecologically sensitive area, the more people will visit and use it wisely... and the more people visit a wild tract of land, the more they will come to care about it. This will be immeasurably good for our city!
104. Edmonton's green is part of what makes us distinctive. Money comes and goes, but once you trash the environment it stays trashed. Conserve and protect, for damn sure.

105. I believe that natural green spaces are of high importance for the quality of life of myself and future generations. Restricting development within these areas, setting them aside for conservation of waterways, air quality, and biodiversity, and ensuring they are valued for their inherent worth is imperative. I believe these measures should arise from multiple stakeholders, including private citizens, non-governmental organizations, government, and industry. Government should provide incentives, educate the public, and promote the value of natural lands, emphasizing their ecologic over economic worth, so all collaborators can work together for the common good. We need to be proactive, and have vision, when it comes to conserving natural lands within and surrounding this wonderful city.
106. One of the reasons my partner and I moved back to Edmonton from Vancouver was because of the ready access available in Edmonton to natural areas and the river valley. We purchased our home in Gold Bar because of its proximity to natural areas and access to the river valley system. Access to natural areas is one of the key features that distinguishes Edmonton as a city where we want to live, a place with great natural beauty and where a high quality of life is possible.
107. In order to have vibrant communities you need to cover all the basic needs of individuals, families, industry, etc. One need that most individuals have is the opportunity to spend time in the great outdoors, hopefully in their own neighbourhood. Setting aside sensitive, natural, etc. areas provides an opportunity for people to enjoy the natural state instead of the constant concrete and asphalt scenery we see each day.
108. Edmonton has an amazing treasure in its natural areas. They should be protected at all costs to provide a much needed link to nature for the people of the city.
109. I am particularly concerned about the loss of high-quality agricultural lands and natural areas in the northeast as a possible consequence of proposed industrial development and the outer ring road. Those lands will be invaluable to citizens within 30 years and Council has an opportunity to establish a policy that will be as significant as the decision to preserve the river valley. Work out the nonsense with neighbouring municipalities but save those lands!
110. The existing natural areas in Edmonton make Edmonton a unique and enjoyable place to live. I have recently moved to a suburb. More green spaces are necessary to accommodate the growing population to prevent overuse of existing green spaces. I would like to see Edmonton as the leader in conservation planning for larger cities.
111. Partnerships with existing like-minded organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited might be save the City of Edmonton from setting up the infrastructure for land donations.
112. The success or failure of any effort rests squarely on the shoulders of developers and their related industries. The time is right to push them to act as stewards, and this will be much more successful if all levels of gov't recognize them for this work (i.e. putting beauty ahead of bucks...one less lot to sell in exchange for a benefit to all residents). Recognizing the lack of understanding about which levels of gov't control which aspects of development, the partnership approach you mention is vital. Take sponsorship/ donation dollars, and apply them SPECIFICALLY to increasing education about the issue, and to supporting the partnership's efforts. Get communities directly involved so there is no opportunity for partners to back out. In other words, an open and publicly accessible partnership, not one that dies a slow bureaucratic death by red tape. Real dollars, real decisions, real timelines. Not vague agreements that serve more as PR tools than change triggers. Paying for a strong facilitator (with leanings towards public sympathies, not industry) will help achieve this. Thanks for the work you're doing, but please KEEP IT REAL! And let us hear about it. Testimonials from participants, not material that's been revised, re-revised and smoothed by the communications gangs. Stewardship requires gov't leadership for success.
113. Edmonton's green spaces are an incredible asset to the city. I'm fortunate to live in an area of the city (McKernan/Belgravie) with access to the river valley. I think it is unfortunate that the natural areas in newer neighbourhoods are being destroyed to put up houses. In thirty or fifty years, the future residents of those

neighbourhoods will value a natural area where they can bike, walk their dogs, and play with their kids much more than they will the additional houses that got built. In this sense, I am perfectly willing to have the City spend as much money as is available on buying these areas. Ideally, these areas would be donated to the City or the developers would be persuaded to protect them themselves, but in the absence of these options outright sale to the City is a worthwhile way for the City to spend its money.

I also encourage any other innovative solutions the City may have that will further the conservation of our dwindling natural areas, be they partnerships with NGOs, the Alberta or federal governments, or a restructuring of the relationship with developers in order to facilitate their conservation efforts. I can't say strongly enough how much I value Edmonton's natural areas. I've traveled and worked in many other places, but it is always the North Saskatchewan river valley that brings me home. All Edmontonians should be able to experience natural areas in Edmonton; natural areas shouldn't be limited to the older neighbourhoods and the ones bordering the river valley. Our natural areas are what set us apart from every other Canadian city I have worked in and I am saddened every time I return and see more of the natural areas plowed under, particularly in the new developments south of 23 Ave.

So please make every effort possible to protect these areas.

114. Having traveled a fair amount, my experience has affirmed my opinion that 'natural areas' are not a luxury item - they are properly part of the bottom line in planning for healthy, sustainable communities. Congratulations to the City for undertaking such planning.
115. The city has the authority for granting development permits or not to new developments and subdivisions. Why not make it a condition of all new areas that the developers set aside specific areas for green spaces in order to get approval to build. This will also enhance the property value of where they're building. I think if you look at the greatest features of Western Canadian cities, you look at Stanley Park in Vancouver, the river valley in Edmonton, etc. Places where the people who were planning the cities had the foresight and courage to set aside areas for the benefit of all citizens (not just for commercial interests).
116. I think all levels of government need to set conservation and preservation as extremely high priorities--I would not like to see provincial control of issues delegated to cities and municipalities-but for all to set a higher priority on natural areas and conservation of the environment.
117. partnerships with the province and other stakeholders should only be supported if they share similar values and beliefs about natural areas, otherwise the city should make these important decisions on its own.
118. Preservation of our natural areas and outlying agricultural areas should be the number 1 priority for City council and the City Administration. Bridges, roads and other infrastructure can wait; once we lose a natural area the opportunity is gone forever. My sense of quality of life is so tied to having access to natural areas that I would seriously consider moving out of the city of Edmonton if we continue to lose our local ecological heritage. please make this a priority for ourselves and generations to come. Thank you.
119. Regarding the question on corridors and linking habitat. Although it would be lovely to also have pedestrian trails as the question indicated it may also be vital to not have human disturbance if the plan is to encourage wildlife movement. Depending on species and geographic area of course...
120. Please don't put money and profit before our natural resources. Nature is vital to our inner health and gives to us in many ways. It is our responsibility to take care of Nature and its many creatures. We share this planet with other living creatures. To continue to develop regardless is a misuse of power. Thank you
121. Some questions don't make sense (such as harmonization with provincial and federal efforts). Answers could depend on how effective you think these efforts are.
122. Edmonton's natural areas are a tremendous asset to the city, and I believe that many people do not realize that. I think that an effort should be made to promote awareness about sustainable use of the Natural Areas

- (importance of staying on trails, litter-control, use of leashes in non-off leash areas, etc.) if we want to maintain the health of our beautiful natural areas.
123. Edmonton is one of the greenest cities in Canada and every effort should be made to maintain and continue to improve this status.
124. City should be a leader in this area & put in legislation that ALL development be sustainable (maybe LEED Certified) & promote the natural environment & provide tax incentives for all developments which achieves "net Zero" impact on the environment - look to the future & be LEADERS!!
125. The city should make it a priority through whatever means possible to maintain greenspace. I would strongly support zoning regulations that increased housing density in areas interspersed with greenspace.
126. I have chosen to live and work in Edmonton in great part due to the existence of the River Valley park system. It is a real treasure and anything you can do to enhance and preserve the ecological things it does will have tremendous value for the city's future - both environmentally and economically.
127. Once natural areas are gone, it's hard to rehabilitate areas back to "natural". The green spaces are what make Edmonton so beautiful!
128. One of Edmonton's important strengths when it comes to quality of life, property value, attractiveness to newcomers and so on is our green spaces. We should be consistent in this, and ever vigilant as the city grows to ensure that new green spaces are created, crucial natural habitats are preserved, and existing parks and green corridors are enhanced.
129. re #6 - I don't believe developers should be encouraged to acquire natural areas unless there are strict and unbreakable rules on the development of these areas. These are areas that we must maintain and increase now (while our city is being pushed towards ever more development) otherwise they will be forever lost to future generations.
130. we Plan to visit the open houses this week to learn more about the City's plan for natural areas.
131. The city is growing rapidly and the Mayor and Council needs to act quickly to save the limited areas we still have. On a second note it was really difficult to find this survey. There should be a direct link to the survey, I had to stumble around to find it. The path was not very user friendly.
132. As the city grows it makes sense to increase density in the downtown and adjacent areas. This will increase the vibrancy of Edmonton and preserve the natural areas so necessary for quality of life.
133. I use the parks and walkways on the trails weekly and have enjoyed it for over 35 years. Lets keep the natural areas like the river valley for the next 1000 generations for everyone enjoyment.
134. I personally love the river valley and all of the green spaces in Edmonton, it is a shame to see them slowly shrink or disappear. I would like to ask that the city do all it can to ensure the safety of existing green spaces and to ensure more for the future.
135. Edmonton's natural areas, along with agricultural areas in the table lands need to be preserved for our quality of life, mental and physical health and (in the case of market gardens) locally grown food.
136. Hi, I am a geocacher, I want to make sure that you guys make allowances are made to protect the sport of Geocaching. If you don't know what Geocaching is go to <http://www.geocaching.com/faq/> Thanks!
137. The green spaces are so important to life in Edmonton. I hear time and again from visitors and new residents how special these areas are and not just the river valley! i choose to live in an older area of the city and the

parcs and natural green areas are a major reason for this. I look at what is going on in suburban areas and can't understand why people want to live there....please make sure that green space in the outer parts of Edmonton are preserved, as well...we need them! We love them!

138. I spend a lot of time in the natural areas, enjoying a not-well-known (and low-impact) hobby that I certainly hope you don't decide to control...
139. Protecting natural areas today will increase the the quality of life for future generations of Edmontonians. It is much more difficult to add or modify natural areas to cities after development has taken place. The city of Toronto's greenbelt, tree planting policy and proposed 1000km of commuter biking trails are all things that could be done and done better in Edmonton before we have the sprawl that they have. Cheers.
140. Edmonton has a beautiful river valley, which is accessible and enhances the quality of life of Edmontonians - however, it is important to maintain natural areas throughout the city, especially in this time of rapid development, so that all citizens have access to natural environments, and so that wildlife may coexist with humans. Quality of life includes a natural component - let's plan to preserve what natural areas we have left.
141. Edmonton has the greatest natural areas of any large city I've been to. It's really impressive, and shows how well natural areas can be integrated into a city.
142. I wish the city would not allow so much residential development on its fringes. It destroys natural areas and agricultural land and perpetuates urban sprawl. Does the city offer any incentives to land developers, or even ordinary citizens who are interested in home renovation, to build or renovate old homes in the city's core neighbourhoods rather than simply assuming that constant expansion at the fringes is the only way to provide much-needed housing? That might help to preserve some green space around the city. I drive through the inner city all the time and am saddened by all the lost potential of those neighbourhoods. We even have a scrap metal dealer located in our inner city for pete's sake! The scrap metal business is what belongs in the suburbs, while the land it is currently occupying should be turned into affordable housing (if it isn't terribly contaminated that is). Sometimes the city's land use policies mystify me and seem the product of another unenlightened era.
143. While I applaud the city's conservation efforts, I hope that it can create some kind of a policy to allow "small" restaurants, etc. somewhere adjacent to the trails. It would be lovely to cross-country ski to a place with hot chocolate and then turn back, or stop for a coffee or, dare I say it? a glass of wine after an afternoon of bikeriding in the summer. A place to tempt the kids with an ice cream if they made it that far on the ride. Think European. Think casual. Do NOT think chain restaurant.
144. Edmonton's natural spaces are what makes the city popular. We need more of them outside of the river valley!
145. I feel very strongly that new development (e.g., urban sprawl) should be limited as much as possible. Urban sprawl is the worst culprit for environmental degradation and the wasteful use of natural resources. How is the city protecting the outlying green space that is being eaten up by developers?
146. The city not only needs to consider natural areas in the expansion areas, but also in the older parts of the city. Over the last decade a lot of greenspace located near ravines such as Mill Creek was sold off for new housing. This narrowed the ravine, and the impact of the increased human traffic is very obvious in the erosion and bare ground where it was previously bushes and plants. If the city had kept the greenspace green, it may have been different. If there are more people, we need more greenspace for them, not less.
147. We are currently destroying too much of Edmonton's natural areas. We need to act quickly to save what we can now!
148. It is good news that the COE is looking at ways to protect and enhance the natural areas in our city. The river valley is one of Edmonton's best features. The survey questions dealing with whether the city spend money on

certain items are difficult to answer given it is not noted where those funds would come from and what program(s) they may be taken away from.

149. Edmonton has an opportunity now to maintain and enhance its natural areas. Now is the time to act to ensure that future economic development and growth in Edmonton is in line with conserving natural areas. You've done it right so far, but don't let that work go to waste.
150. I would like to add that I am not only an admirer of Edmonton's natural areas from a distant perspective, but that I also interact with various natural areas within the city on a frequent basis. I feel that the natural areas in Edmonton provide a high level of quality of life for the citizens of Edmonton as well as for myself. Perpetuating these natural areas should be a high priority for the city of Edmonton.
151. When I have company from other cities, they often comment how beautiful and green our city is. I would like it to stay as green as possible, literally and ecologically speaking. Good luck!!
152. Access to natural areas is a huge attraction when buying a home. It is imperative that we protect our natural spaces for the future to ensure a "green city" that is livable and also protects the future of wildlife. Any incentives and publicity we can give to plans and options for developers and owners, the better. It is good to know the many levels of government are working together on this very important issue.
153. Thank you for recognizing that the public has priorities other than the accumulation of wealth. For the sake of the next generations, we NEED to start emphasizing these priorities. Money isn't everything!!!!
154. The City of Edmonton's natural areas are very important to our family. This is one of the many reasons we love this city.
155. protect the agricultural land in the North East.. near Alberta Hospital. Losing productive land to huge housing developments is short sighted.
156. There is a natural wetlands area on Manning Freeway between 144 Ave and 167 Ave on the east side that needs to be protected but already it looks like development is taking place. Don't let what happened at Little Mountain Cemetery happen along this route that is used extensively by water fowl.
157. Natural areas make the city beautiful, enjoyable, enhance one's spiritual awareness and physical and mental well-being. I can't express how strongly I feel about the importance of natural areas.
158. The City should enact legislation to create Greenbelt areas as part of an integrated strategy to encourage urban densification, the development of brownfield sites, and the redevelopment of inner-city areas. Greenbelt bylaws should inhibit the building of new residential developments on agricultural land surrounding the city. A part of this policy should be the removal of hidden subsidies to developers in fringe areas, which come in the form of infrastructural development (roads, sewers, etc.). This would de-incentivize greenfield development and remove pressure on natural areas around the city.
159. Please limit the amount of development in the river valley, it is a fabulous area to have. As well, it provides a corridor for animals, which is required as our cities get larger and larger. It would be lovely if Edmonton also imposed a boundary past which we could not grow, similar to Portland. The city is expanding so rapidly and overtaking natural areas and farm land.
160. The natural areas in the NSRVRS are being degraded by misuse, abuse and over use. I know of two that are badly degraded in some areas: Mill Creek Ravine and Whitemud. We need more natural areas so that our present ones are not over used.
161. By taking a position that promotes the conservation of the natural areas, the City of Edmonton is following in the footsteps of other municipalities who have already taken these steps as well as acting as a leader to other

communities who must surely also be facing the challenge of balancing growth and economic prosperity with a view to environmentalism.

162. Corridors/greenways/networks should be encouraged for natural spaces, but not at the detriment of having larger contiguous spaces available for wildlife.
163. It is almost too late for many natural areas within the City. Must work as quickly as possible. The Land Trust should solicit monetary donations from citizens who love natural areas but don't own land with natural areas on it.
164. I believe conservation of natural areas in and around Edmonton should be a priority for urban planning. We must promote natural areas, parks and green spaces in all developments around the City. We must also encourage and provide incentives for developers to maintain the ecological integrity of our landscape and incorporate conservation into their development regimes.
165. Edmonton's green spaces are one of the reasons this city is great! There aren't many cities who can compare with us in terms of our river valley! So I think it is vitally important that as this city grows, our green spaces grow as well, so that Edmontonians throughout Edmonton can all enjoy it! Green spaces increase my quality of life and my friends!
166. It was great last night to see moose in the ravine. It would be great if in 10 years from now that my children would be able to see the same thing. The green space provides an accessible and free option for people of this city!!!!
167. It is so extremely important to maintain the Natural areas within the City. With development and agricultural activities there is only 5% of the Native Aspen Parkland left in Alberta. This is deplorable! We need to maintain some genetic diversity if we want to keep some of these precious plants. If we want our children to appreciate and enjoy the environment we grew up with, we must protect what little we have! Wouldn't it be horrible when we take our children for nature walks and there is no nature. No native plants left! How are we to explain our inconsiderate greed, to our children!
168. As a life long resident in the city of Edmonton I believe it would be a shame to waste the refuges that exist. The way the city is developing does not allow for sustainability of our environment both local and global. We need to continue trying as a municipality to preserve these natural places not only for the aesthetic preservation but the environmental preservation for the next generations of Edmontonians.
169. I feel those areas are important not only to the environment but to the education of children to the cycle of life.
170. Preserving our natural habitats to ensure that we do not continue to upset the delicate balance of nature is and should be our number one priority.
171. I really enjoy the natural areas in Edmonton and am really pleased to hear that more areas will be added for the future. I am a birder so having natural areas are very important to me. I was really impressed with the open house I went to on the west end last night (Nov. 20). I now understand more about the project.
172. I disagree that homes in close proximity to natural areas should cost more. This excludes low income families from enjoying the benefits of green space. Natural areas should not be only for the elite!
173. I live in the neighbourhood of Argyll that is bordered by part of the Mill Creek Ravine. My husband and I walk our dogs in the ravine almost every day of the week and we value the area immensely. We purchased our home based on the neighbourhood and the amount of greenspace. We often take our dogs to Terwillegar park and we both run on the trails throughout the river valley. Edmonton is a city of opportunity right now in terms of economic gains but we should do things to conserve green space and continue to make the right moves in terms

of green ideas. Our current mayor and city council should be commended for taking our city in the right direction in trying to find ways to preserve natural areas and create new natural areas.

174. I would appreciate efforts to make either or both the N. Sask. river and Hawrelak Park Lake swimmable. To swim outdoors! Can we limit the damage done by beavers?
175. Particularly support green corridors developed with walkways and trails. The Province of AB completed an extensive Recreation Corridors Legislative Review in 2002-3, however no decisions to introduce legislation (at that time). Work with Ray Danyluk MLA to revive.
176. Edmonton should be an international leader in the protection of natural environments.
177. The question "The City of Edmonton should develop incentives to encourage the acquisition of natural areas and/or their conservation by developers" is an interesting one. While I think this is extremely important to incorporate into new developments, I don't agree that the city (i.e. my taxes) should be used as an incentive for a developer to maintain/build/enhance and natural area. I would suggest that in order to get a development permit and re-zoning applications approved that the city would simply add certain "natural area" conditions to the permits. If this is cost prohibitive for the developer they will choose not to build in the area, or they will pass the cost along to new home buyers that can then choose if they want to pay more (as one of the other questions asked) for a house close to a natural area. But paying developers to conserve something that they have to ask permission to develop in the first place seems very backwards.
178. As an active person living in a city, I find having natural areas for activities such as running and x-country skiing very important. Having a sufficient amount of nature is the only way I can function in an urban centre.
179. Wetlands have been wiped out in many areas near recent developments (eg the Anthony Henday ring road) and they are especially rich areas for wildlife and important for water quality and wildlife viewing. These should be replaced with artificially built wetlands and should be a part of the cost of any development that destroys wetlands. Homeowners should be encouraged to remove lawns, reduce pesticides, plant native plants and think of their yards as extensions of the natural areas.
180. I just returned from a trip to New York. The one thing I missed most was our green areas. You don't realize how important it is until it's not there.
181. I am very proud of Edmonton's natural areas and feel they keep us grounded in what is important. If we lose these precious habitats, we lose what is special about central Alberta. Congratulations on going to the citizens with your concerns. I hope enough people rise to the occasion and provide support and input.
182. I am a concerned resident in Glenora. We've been looking for a natural setting to buy a new home in for our expanding family. Unfortunately, all new developments seem more inclined to mow down natural areas to build homes rather than include them in natural settings. Wouldn't it be something if everyone could back onto a ravine? That would be our dream...Unfortunately, the idea of this happening seems like just that, a dream.
183. While the questions listed so far give direction, that direction should stay open to reasoned modifications reviewed and implemented periodically, not just by City Council but by the greater community.
184. The survey does not mention the positive impact on reducing global warming of leaving land in it's near natural state. I also believe that, where possible, land should be helped to revert back to a natural state through the planting of indigenous plants and restricting human incursions as much as possible. Looking at the X-country-ski trails in Goldbar and Capilano it appears that 4-wheel drive vehicles use the trails and do much damage. This should be stopped. Parkland should be limited to non-vehicular traffic.
185. We should be conserving natural areas not just to support species diversity, but also to maintain ecosystems' abilities to uphold ongoing ecological services. We should have nature within our cities not just because it looks

- nice and makes us feel good, but because they are part of a larger functioning bioregion on which all human activities depend.
186. Preserving these natural areas is CRITICAL to preserving the health of the city. Edmonton is the capital city of Alberta, and should set an example in this area for the other cities in this province, especially in these growth focused times. Oil and industry and the money that they bring are great, but the long term consequences of rapid development are not being looked at.
187. The city needs to act faster to ensure that there is green space left and encourage the developers to build up as opposed to out.
188. I live in Edmonton by choice, and the city has many positives for commuters, both cyclist and public transit, but we have a long way to go. Perhaps taking a page out of Portland's (Oregon) non - motorist friendly approach, especially in the core area would speed up needed improvements here. Restricting private motor vehicles in key areas encourages use of transit and human powered commutes, park and ride facilities, cleaner air and quiet surroundings in high density areas. It would also conserve fuel, and decreases the need for more expensive and future gridlocked intercity freeways.
189. It is imperative to the health and beauty of the North Saskatchewan Water Shed, that green spaces are maintained throughout the city. All run off water eventually makes its way to the river and the only way of cleaning this water is through the natural filtering provided by green spaces. Also, Edmonton boasts a beautiful river valley in all its travel brochures etc. and to allow development up and down the banks of the river would be an absolute crime. Edmonton councils of past have made some appalling errors for the sake of development, foregoing character and history. Let's stop the insanity! As the increase in population is posing a problem in finding living accommodation, cost of living for students and a shortage of room in senior's institutions, why not look within "old Edmonton", allow for a zoning change and allow senior parents and students of homeowners to live on the property in a "cottage" situation WITH VERY TIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON DESIGN! These lots are very large and the space for parking on the street is far greater than in new areas and the services already exist for these neighborhoods. I would not support rezoning for multi-family use but rather for "extended family" use. It would be relatively easy to monitor such a situation through the tax roll. Once the need is not longer there, the building would become an extension of the living area for the family who resides in the main house.
190. There seems to be no mechanism in place for maintaining, or restoring, the natural areas that the City already owns. Edmonton needs a "Master Naturalist" program on the lines of the Master Composters program to take advantage of unpaid volunteer labour.
191. The Earth Charter www.earthcharter.org reflects my views on the necessity of preserving biological diversity. Preserving Edmonton's natural areas is a necessary part of working toward this goal
192. As a resident of a neighbourhood that borders MacKinnon Ravine, and an almost daily user of the ravine and river valley trails, I greatly appreciate the ribbon of green approach and support its conservation for future generations of Edmontonians.
193. I have lived in Edmonton for 25 years after moving here from Toronto. I regularly use and value highly Edmonton's natural areas, much more so than groomed parks and sports fields.
194. We have already lost too much green space to development. Instead of paving over grasslands, wetlands or riparian areas, our city should concentrate on building up areas that have been previously developed. We should build taller buildings instead of low density single-family dwellings.
195. I am a life long Edmonton resident. We are very fortunate to live in a city with such a great amount of greenspace. I am in favour of the City to allow some development of our river valley systems. Whether that be a "Granville Island" like marketplace or some very "green friendly" townhouses or low rise condos. If we allow

any development of these areas it must be to the highest environmentally friendly standards. Making use of grey water recovery, using some windpower/solar power for energy. It should be a model of our future. We need to be a leader in this movement towards clean energy sources. Seeing how we are the world's largest supplier of tar sands, I think it is our duty to show the world that we are responsible and looking to the future.

196. Where land development has been allowed, the city of Edmonton should encourage developers to take a more responsible and environmentally friendly attitude to its development. Yes, it is easier to totally clear an area and void it of flora and fauna but at what expense. Trees such as those found naturally and have existed for 40 or 50 years should be preserved and thus allow the natural wildlife to remain in their homes. Rather than clearing and reforesting. A good example of this will be happening along Ellerslie (large stand of huge spruce trees on the south side of Ellerslie Road which has a notice saying don't bother to ask the trees will be removed) Road at 111th Street and west. Maybe if there were city incentives for them to work with existing natural landscaping developers would be more apt to use methods that are not just the easiest and fastest but more environmentally responsible.
197. I think there are some good issues here, I hope the biased questions and forced narrow range of answers don't affect the outcomes too much.
198. In an ever growing society let's keep the little nature we have alive and thriving. Edmonton is so beautiful because of all its parks and areas. It is a treasure amongst cities that are becoming concrete jungles. Let's not spoil the jewel.
199. Natural areas, especially in urban centres, are important to the physical, emotional and spiritual health and sense of well-being of all citizens. Having access to these areas for recreation, walking, meditating, enjoying nature makes people more fully human, has a calming and regenerating effect, and can at least give us a glimpse and a bit of first hand experience and understanding of the interrelationship of all living things and the environment. Unfortunately, due to physical, financial, social or other limitations, some people are not able to leave the city at all. For them, having easy access to natural environments within the city, however small in area, is the only way they can ever experience nature first hand. Thus, preserving natural areas throughout the city is essential for enabling all citizens to have access to the many health benefits that we receive from our experiences of and in nature.
200. Protecting natural areas should be a priority in Edmonton. The allure of this city is the natural beauty surrounding the developed areas.
201. I live in the River Valley. It is one of the few remaining green areas in The City of Edmonton - and one of Edmonton's redeeming qualities. Unimaginable that anyone council would allow it to become anything but that.
202. We live very close to Mill Creek Ravine and really enjoy this area as it makes us feel that we are "close to nature". Both of us are from smaller communities and aren't particularly attracted to life in the "big city". However, the green spaces associated with the riverbank and creeks are ideal and give a bit of a natural feel to the community. We would like to see more efforts aimed at reducing the invasion of exotic species in these natural areas, in addition to more grassland communities incorporated into the area of natural areas conserved.
203. Edmonton has one of the largest areas of green space in North America. We need to make every effort to retain and maintain these areas and add to them. Connecting these areas would make a lot of sense and I am sure a lot more people would use their bikes for traveling in the City. The air would be a lot better, too if we had more green spaces.
204. Among the initiatives to preserve natural areas, every new development should provide plans of "ecological impact", subject to city approval (or not). Areas with mature trees should only be developed if 80% or so of the trees can be preserved, for example. No allowances for reforestation with non-native /small nursery type trees. Why developers can not work around the trees? BAD Example: Ellerslie Rd widening (close to Victoria C. School)- Why cut the mature trees when the north side is wide open, against the development fence?

205. This is an issue of immense importance.
206. I am glad the City of Edmonton is willing to do what it takes to protect our natural areas and add to them.
207. Thank-you for looking for our feedback. Natural beauty and biodiversity are so vital in our own physical and mental well being.
208. I moved here from Eastern Canada and I did not know we even had a river valley. Most people who are not from Edmonton think that the Prairies in particular Edmonton is flat, dirty and boring. Having natural areas will set this city apart. I think keeping our natural areas will only attract more business. More Canadians are becoming more environmentally responsible and protecting our natural areas seems like the right thing to do!
209. The City should approve new development based on their merit and within regulations and should not bear any burden of development (land swaps, dealing, etc.). The City is a regulator and should leave business to the developers. New developments should only be approved if they fall within the rules and these should be designed to protect the City's citizens.
210. I agree with using a network approach but I'm not convinced that greenways and linear corridors should be the ultimate approach to this. There are many ecological problems associated with having a lot of linear features on the landscape. Using some of the existing ones such as pipelines or powerlines is good in the context of an urban setting but creating linear features that perhaps detract from core areas is a potentially dangerous step. In other words, having larger core areas or stepping stones should be more of a priority.
211. Our natural areas are truly a treasure. We live in a part of the world that is still relatively new to development and urbanization. We therefore have an opportunity that many cities of the world do not. We have the (time limited) opportunity to conserve what can never be recreated.
212. A linkage of natural area is very important. I live in Aspen Garden and the Whitemud Creek is the reason I moved into the area. It is a place that does not exist in the middle of any other city I know of. Our natural spaces are integral to making Edmonton a world class city.
213. The miles of endless suburbs are disgusting and provide only a concrete environment for those living there with the only major sightings being who has the largest motor home. I'd rather look at wildlife thank you very much.
214. The green spaces in and around Edmonton are critical to wildlife as well and enhances the quality of life of Edmontonians and Albertans. It is my strong opinion that the erosion of these green spaces will have a severe detrimental effect of wildlife as well as human life in the city. Edmonton is known around the country and the world as a beautiful city that has lovely parks and green spaces. Let's not mess with success!
215. I live in an older neighbour with beautiful trees. I am watching people slowly cut down their trees because they are inconvenient and need to be maintained. Then we have all these new communities where it is not allowed at all to plant large trees. I'm beginning to feel like I'm living in an industrial area. The northend of Edmonton is going downhill in many many ways.
216. Question #6 is unclear
217. Hoping to come to one of the public presentations - would have appreciated bus routes!
218. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback online.
219. Regional governments need to work together to ensure an integrated regional plan and approach.
220. Green space in cities is very important for diversity. It is what makes cities inhabitable by encouraging connection to the environment.

221. Natural areas within the city provide MANY benefits. These include water absorption and filtering, urban heat reduction, air filtration, space for children to play and explore - very beneficial for their health and wellbeing, areas for people to enjoy - vital to quality of life. It would be VERY sad to have a city with limited green space. Edmonton needs to ACT now to ensure green space for many generations to enjoy.
222. There are enough new homes built already. The City should begin a concerted effort to slow the acquisition of farmland for development.
223. We should celebrate and promote our present green space. Does Edmonton still have the most green space of any major city in N. America? As population increases we need to provide more opportunities for people to enjoy nature as close as home as possible. Walks in the river valley and ravines are a highlight of my day.
224. Protect and expand our green spaces, please. Development should be way down the list of priorities. Edmonton's charm lies in its river valley and parkland.
225. The idea is great, the problem is economics, the one that pays the most are the average citizens. The cost of conservation of ravines, for example, is spread to houses that are far from them and not only to the ones in the actual proximity. NGO's most of them are there just to make money for the people who work for them. Will the creation of new reserved areas promote better living or allow more expensive and profitable neighborhoods to be developed. The city should look at the same time way to improve the route between the suburbs and downtown, leave corridors to implement LRT to all new developments.
226. Preserving biodiversity and natural areas ought to be a priority for all communities.
227. Municipalities (read-Edmonton) should not be providing funds to support areas of responsibilities of other levels of government (provincial/federal). We can possibly give one time incentives to encourage land donations or green space formation, but not ongoing (annual) fiscal support when the city already spends too much and services are degrading.
228. I am a single father, working full time in the construction industry. I value my families health and well-being, and believe that a commitment to protecting nature and building within it rather than over it is vital. I spent some time in Calgary, and I heard several comments about why Edmonton is a better place to live than Calgary. I was told it is because we have so many more green areas. Our city is truly beautiful and welcoming. Our children learn from our examples. A healthy respect for nature and its inclusion into our lives means the next generation will be prepared to take things a step further and re-integrate city living with nature.
229. We have a beautiful river valley, but I sometimes wonder if that had led us to think we have enough green space, instead of protecting the patches of natural areas around Edmonton. The north side of Edmonton is especially lacking natural areas. I live in NW Edmonton and long for a forested area where I can take a stroll. The little random patches of trees and man made lakes are a sorry state for natural areas in Edmonton. We have lost so many ecologically valuable places already! I hope the city can follow through with a commitment to protect the remaining areas, and perhaps naturalize some of the man-made green areas.
230. Development and conservation can work for the benefit of all...let us leave a legacy of planning and preservation.
231. I walk in the ravines and natural areas of Edmonton at least once a week and often more. Our natural areas are a treasure and enhance quality of life and awareness of nature on our doorstep. Natural areas are not only beneficial to human residents of Edmonton, but are vital to the wildlife species who inhabit them. As we encroach more and more on their natural habitat, it is absolutely vital to keep some areas available to them so they may continue to survive. Human expansion into wild habitats has already compromised many species of wild animal and plant life...let's try our best to keep the damage to a minimum. Thank you for your efforts in this regard.

232. Our Natural Spaces are our most valuable and essential resource. Without a healthy sustainable environment, the quality of life in our city would be greatly diminished. The very quality of our water, air, plant and animal life, and so forth depends upon an integrated healthy system of natural areas.
233. One of the reasons that Edmonton is such an amazing and beautiful city to live in is its natural spaces! Every time I see the Mill Creek Ravine or the North Saskatchewan River valley, or any number of natural areas in Edmonton, I am amazed at the amount of natural areas found within the city. I think it is vitally important to protect the existing natural areas within the City of Edmonton and, if possible, increase the amount of natural areas belonging to and protected by The City. It would be great to pass on this great legacy to future generations of humans and wildlife!
234. Edmonton's river valley and natural spaces are among its defining qualities. More than any other feature, I believe it is Edmonton's greenbelt network that makes it a city worth living in and moving to.
235. I so much enjoy being able to take visitors to the river valley rather than to West Edm. Mall!
236. Natural areas improve quality of life. I would definitely pay more to live near a ravine.
237. Although I answered 'strongly agree' to almost all questions, there are some (esp. regarding things like transfer of authority for conservation to cities from the province) that I feel I need more information on in order to take in all possible ramifications. As far as property values, the only reason my husband and I bought the house we did in the area we did (Millwoods) is because it is beside the ravine.
238. I was unaware of the Office on Natural Areas.
239. Natural areas are essential to our future as a healthy population. We live near the North Sask. river valley and are frequent users of the trails. Many times we have taken our children there away from the materialism of the malls and they come home relaxed. I am sure that natural areas on the edge of the city would have the same benefit. Also, I grow and protect native Alberta plants. Natural areas need to be protected to ensure that the variety of environments needed by various plants remain available.
240. Let's hope you make the right decision to keep Edmonton beautiful!
241. Without a healthy environment -- where are we. It is the only thing of value that is not valued at all -- see the rape of the Fort McMurray landscape. What good is that. I repeat, without a healthy vibrant environment we have nothing.
242. One of my favourite things about living in Edmonton is that I am almost never far from a park. When I chose to move to Edmonton to attend university, one of the factors in my decision was the knowledge that I would be close to the river valley and could study and run there. I think that Edmonton has done an admirable job so far of maintaining green space even around downtown, and that the pairing of dense residential buildings with parks is a great idea that allows people to live close to natural settings without having to be way out of town, and I would like to see future development follow suit. Since Edmonton seems to be expanding outward very quickly, immediate action ought to be taken to ensure that urban sprawl doesn't obliterate sensitive, healthy land (not to mention threaten the entire area further by encouraging people to commute to work, most often, in my observation, alone in a giant vehicle).
243. Thanks for providing this opportunity to give input!
244. To watch as the city allows developers to rip up the rich loam of farms that once were a part of what was known as the Bread Basket of the World is horrible. To see our natural wild spots disappear forever under concrete and steel is beyond belief. Does it take the ultimate catastrophe for humans to wake up and do something that will not further foul their nest? Edmonton can stop the desecration now. The city can be courageous and take the

lead in refusing to be pushed into unsound, dangerous, and downright tragic decisions that will lay waste to our beautiful land. Please protect our natural areas.

245. The real answer is to have protection of natural areas as an integral part of the land development process. In particular, no development at all should be approved on especially sensitive or threatened areas. That is why I disagreed with the questions on cooperating or incenting private land owners. We do not live in a jurisdiction where one can do whatever one wants with private land. The days of developers running rough shod over the broader public interest need to end, and in particular the days of putting perceived short term economic development over longer term, broader interests need to end.
246. Edmonton's natural areas were a huge draw when I moved here from the U.S. They vastly improve local quality of life, and they are what I talk about when I tell people in other parts of North America about what a great city this is. Doing everything possible to take care of these resources is both good environmental sense and good business sense for the city as it continues to grow and development becomes ever more rapid.
247. It is most unfortunate that the city has allowed so much private ownership of land in the river valley. Let's not repeat that mistake. As the city grows, it is more and more important to ensure the conservation of natural areas and green space.
248. Natural areas are important and priceless piece of any vibrant city. I hope City Council will see past the short term monetary gains of developing all available land and make sure there are enough parkland spaces for future generations.
249. Land development should expand outwards of the city's perimeter, not within! It is crucial that we maintain our natural land, and if government officials plan to stay in office then this should be included in their platform! Athletes run on our trails, children play in our parks, this is a necessity of life!
250. I think it's important in a city context to ensure that conserved lands have some accessibility for people. That is, unlike a national park, I believe it is reasonable to place equal values on the environmental and recreational values of natural areas (within reasonable limits!). I think the off leash areas at Laurier and Dawson Parks are excellent examples.
251. Identified conservation areas in locations otherwise not developed (in the remaining rural areas) should be protected now by not allowing any development to occur on them in the future. This would mean any ASP or new plan applications would have to include them as undevelopable land (much like the river valley) and these would not be part of the MR allocation either. Thus the sites are saved and the overall green space allocation rises as well.
252. I live near to the North side of the river. It is very important to maintain this natural area. I feel very strongly against development on the farmland south of river. This city is starting to look like a ghetto with graffiti and huge ugly apartment complexes. The City of Edmonton counsel needs to look at the development permits that they are constantly providing. We do not need more Wal Marts, malls, liquor stores, casinos, or bars. We need art and cultural venues, sports arenas, and schools. All of these can be incorporated into green space without devaluating or compromising our City's reputation. Money is not everything. High crime has become a large indication and a result of money and greed in this city. More visually pleasing and esthetically feasible land development must be considered.
253. The most efficient way to achieve conservation of urban biodiversity is to maintain the area and quality of existing habitats - with generally the larger sites having the highest priority and to increase connections between them.
254. Abundant green space is one of the biggest factors in making a city livable. The river valley system is one of the primary reasons I continue to live in Edmonton. Protection of the natural environment is the kind of forward

thinking that we desperately need. It's much harder to return developed areas to green space than it is to protect what's already there.

255. More public awareness of Edmonton's natural areas needs to occur

256. One of Edmonton's greatest assets is its vast green space. It is a beautiful legacy to pass on to future generations, provides innumerable benefits to citizens, and keeps our city beautiful. I would like to congratulate city officials for providing us a great green band, but I think we can continue to integrate green areas into future and current developments. Let's put Edmonton on the map with this, again...

257. Conserving Edmonton's Natural Areas should be a priority for the city. Once areas are allocated or destroyed the option to protect them and conserve them is gone.

258. I am disturbed by the extensive development in the river valley near the baseball stadium - I don't think this should have happened. Having said that however, I also think there should be a shortcut to the west end. We have had lobby groups from the valley zoo area preventing through ways to the west end - think of all the pollution generated and time wasted by have to go around that neighbourhood both from the southside/university area and from downtown.

259. Thank you for offering the opportunity for citizens' input.

260. One of my favourite things about Edmonton is the river valley and ravine system. I hope that the city will work to preserve them, clean up polluted and damaged areas (like Mill Creek), and add to these areas where ever possible. It would be particularly nice if we had more natural space outside of the river valley.

261. I am an avid outdoorswoman and am very pleased to take part in any discussion or surveys around this issue. We as a city, are recognized through out the country as a city with the most green space and this is one reason I'm proud to call Edmonton home.

262. They make Edmonton - without the River Valley I wouldn't be here!

263. One of the reasons I enjoy living in Edmonton is because of the abundance of natural areas

264. Edmonton's Natural Areas are what drew our family to the area. Both my husband and I are originally from Ottawa, ON. The green spaces within Edmonton provide us with great recreational opportunities that are unique for a city this size I think.

265. If the city is looking into making land acquisitions for the purpose of conservation than we must be ensured that this land will never fall under any type of development even as the push for subdivisions and commercial property continues to grow. As well these lands must be managed properly. Overuse by recreationalists will render these acquisitions to limited roles as habitat sanctuaries.

266. We must plan for future generations, another suburb is not planning. Green spaces encourage physical activity, which encourages better health, less illness/sickness, fewer visits to medical facilities... look at long term funding, not only in terms of city planning, but at the health care level also.

267. I Strongly support the City to save more natural areas in and around the City of Edmonton. The City should put a 'hold' on development till a corresponding natural area has been preserved, and then a developer should go ahead. A developer should be required by law to leave 15% of their purchased space natural, or return it to its natural state.

268. I spend a lot of time in the river valley and I find it extremely restorative to my soul to live so close to nature. Edmonton's natural areas are a treasure shared by very few other cities. We should make their preservation and expansion a priority.

269. WE need more green areas down town. Churchill square is new and looks amazing , but I miss the grass. I say tear down edmonton center mall and make a park like central park :D
270. Within the Capital Region there are thousands of birds and mammals, which live here year-round. The North Saskatchewan River Valley and other natural areas around the region are active wildlife corridors; therefore, the more populated Edmonton and surrounding Municipalities become, the smaller the wildlife corridor shrinks, causing wildlife to move into surrounding neighbourhoods.
Over the last few years, WRS has observed a rise in patient numbers, which is due to the increase of wildlife/human interactions around the Capital Region. The Edmonton ecosystem is situated on a major flyway for a number of migratory birds, such as the Trumpeter Swan and the Peregrine Falcon, which are both on the provincial threatened species list. As our city increases in size each year, so do the annual number of patients and types of species we see at the shelter. Many of our patient's injuries are a direct result of living in an urban environment.
The Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton is focused on wilderness conservation and environmental responsibility. The presence of wildlife within an urban environment creates an opportunity for citizens to interact with animals and increase their knowledge and awareness of environmental issues. The people living in Edmonton are lucky because we do not have to leave the city to get in touch with nature. We can go into our city parks and into our river valley.
Should the City like to contact a representative from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton, please contact me at ~~XXX XXXX~~.
271. We need to preserve, enhance and extend our natural areas for quality of life today, and for generations to come.
272. In a city that is growing fast, it is really important to keep the balance of natural area. It will reflect those decision in the future at every level. If there is an unbalance we will see it in the criminality level, drug abuse increasing and increase in homeless people. They will reflect our lack of judgement to create a beautiful city.
273. I applaud this initiative and hope that you will act to preserve the uniqueness and richness that these areas provide. Already, too many developments have gone in and I have witnessed the destruction of important natural areas, particularly around the new Parkland - Lewis Estates areas. I would love to be adjacent to wild spaces for my physical and psychological health and I know many others would like to be too. Finally, it is important to also encourage developers to create developments that work with natural processes not destroy and then try to rebuild and use the best technology for housing as well. This all preserves our habitat. I would also like to see restrictions on development outside the Henday until all the land within the "green belt" has been utilized...well. Thanks for this opportunity!
274. When retain natural corridors from a natural area to a ravine, or between natural areas, there must be protection of a significantly wide area to accommodate both human and wildlife access. The trail leading from the McGrath Heights natural area to the Whitemud Creek is much too narrow to be effective.
275. I personally think that the natural area's within Edmonton presently make the city a beautiful wonderful city to live in. I love walking through the ravines when their in full bloom and enjoy the gifts of nature without leaving the city.
276. I also believe that the reason we don't have a large smog issue in this city is contributed to the fact that we have these natural area's in our city. Keep them and we keep the smog away.
277. It is important for all species that these natural areas be protected from development. And everything must be done to protect and maintain protection of these areas! We are taking over too much land as it is and other ideas need to be explored to reduce and/or stop suburban sprawl and developing into the river valley. Thank you!
278. We love the open spaces in Edmonton, the river valley trails, Terwillegar park, etc. Please keep that spirit!

279. Edmonton is becoming known for its green spaces. Assuring the continued conservation of existing spaces and encouraging developing of new areas is vital to the city's reputation and its identity.
280. Natural greenspaces not only make our city beautiful, they make it a pleasure to explore and enjoy while giving us better air quality and supporting conservation of species.
281. please take care of our land for future generations
282. With natural areas shrinking all over the world it is imperative that we do what we can to protect what is left. Especially areas that are overrun by the urban sprawl.
283. People learn to care most about things to which they are close, and with which they have interactions. Opportunities for the urban public to experience the natural world are rapidly decreasing, and with it an attitude of environmental stewardship. Anything that city planners can do to offset this declining environmental attitude would be most helpful to the world at large.
284. Land conservation and protection should be a priority when doing overall land planning. The way that the city of Edmonton has expanded in the past decade is disgraceful. The approach has been an expansionist, never ending availability to resources approach. Natural areas, wildlife and recreationists have suffered at the expense of new home developments. An example being Little Mountain Natural Area, now Brintnell: I wonder where all those animals and birds have gone or have they just died.
My family lives next to a natural area, we had to pay extra money to move into an area within the city and next to the ravine. More incentives should be given to families that want to live closer to the city core instead of the "affordable" housing offered on the outskirts.
285. Natural areas make Edmonton the great city that it is.
286. Natural areas, in my opinion, should have a low-impact recreational basis to ensure long term public support. Wildlife management or natural areas stewardship concepts may not be consistent with recreational use. Urban environments are often dangerous to wildlife and corridors may increase harmful contacts. Consider Canmore as an example. Green spaces should have a variety of uses that allows for urban adaptable wildlife and humanpowered recreation.
287. Edmonton's advantage has always been a commitment to natural spaces for the benefit of all citizens. With the recent economic boom we are in danger of losing this advantage. Conservation of the Environment and the maintenance of natural spaces (no pavement! no signs!) should ALWAYS take priority over economic or development interests.
288. I believe that Edmonton's Natural areas are one of the City's major benefits, and enhance the Quality of Life for all citizens. I strongly support environmental causes and deplore the destruction of our Green spaces by the ongoing development boom.
289. I'm somewhat ignorant of the City's resources relative to identifying, protecting and managing environmentally sensitive areas. This survey asks if the City should push for greater authority in this area, but I'm not convinced that this is an area of expertise for this City's municipal government. I'd be able to develop an opinion on the concept of greater authority if the City described how it would resource it's capabilities in environmental management. I know, by comparison, that the Province has a large contingent of biologists and a core competency in environmental management. I see no such capability in City government. (by the way, I'm not an Alberta Government employee).
I'm also bothered by the introductory blurb which suggested that Edmonton considers it's environmentally sensitive areas to be focused within the river valley system. Has the City considered environmentally sensitive areas outside the river valley system such as wetlands, grasslands and stands of trees? Just because an area lacks significant "citizen-appeal" (such as a smelly marsh, a non-trailed forest or an unsightly patch of indigenous grass) doesn't mean they don't have some significance as non-human habitats. Will the City stand up to the

allure of development and new tax revenues in the interests of the environment, or will it only focus on the areas that warrant protection to appease the Sunday morning walker?

I question whether, for instance, environmental stewardship has taken precedence over development in the Ellerslie and Blackmud areas, which were, when I grew up, a haven for birds and mammals? The City needs to take a stronger stand and a demonstrated focus on the protection of environmentally sensitive areas for me to be convinced.

290. I am proud of our parkland and would be very saddened to see it spoiled by residential or commercial growth. There is a lot of unused land in industrial areas for commercial growth and areas throughout the city for residential growth. Please help to keep our river valley as beautiful as ever. It is a pride of our city and deserves to remain as untouched as possible.
291. I spend an enormous amount of time on the trails in the Mill Creek Ravine, and without it, living in the city would be MUCH less tolerable. The ravine area has been a life-saver and stress reducer more-so than any trinket money could buy. We need more of these areas to remind us to slow down, reconnect, and take a break from our busy urban lives. The psychological benefits and boost to quality of life these areas provide cannot be underestimated.
292. We live near the Mill Creek Ravine and make very good use of it. This is a definite asset to the community and I think that without it we would have moved to another area. It is like a piece of the wilderness and when walking in it you feel as if you are no longer in the city.
293. One of the other concerns is free and open access to these natural conservation areas. They should be developed so that they do not become the exclusive use of homeowners in the area. This is the problem when the City of Edmonton planners allow a developer to develop right on the North Saskatchewan River (condo on 98th Ave and 93 St) where now view and right of way access is impacted.
294. We in Edmonton have a treasure of river access land that is the envy of many cities. It is a real selling point to encourage people to move to our city. The maintenance of these natural areas is important to our growth...not only now but in the future. The youth of today are using these natural areas more than any city that I have known. They are safe and provide a vehicle for healthy growth/fitness for all people.
295. Please maintain and extend the viability and integrity of our city's Natural Areas. These areas are a huge reason why so many of us choose to live and love this city.
296. In my local park, Collingwood, in just the 2 years that I have lived in this area, I can see the natural part receding due to human and dog activity. Despite signs that indicated that a porcupine was resident and asking dog owners to restrict their dogs, few owners seemed to even consider restricting their dogs to open areas. While I am a dog owner, I believe that allowing dogs to roam freely through natural areas used as off-leash parks, is causing destruction of habitat for wildlife. Only open meadows should be used for off-leash activities. Another concern that I have is that few people seem to value parks. The local community committee seems to see our local park only as space where organized activities can be held: the addition of a skateboard park is one they have been discussing. A regional library is being built on one edge.
I live along a greenspace with a trail and I don't think that there is enough greenspace surrounding most trails to allow or encourage any wildlife movement along it.
297. I like that Edmonton has many parks and green areas and a nice river valley. Don't let economic boom force us to put up houses everywhere, as we have to live with that. Let people pay more to live near parks and also allow a certain amount of green even in the city centre or any community, like 10% no matter what, for example.
Thanks!
298. If people are willing to pay extra for home in proximity to a natural area - why would developers require incentives to develop adjacent land? There is absolutely NO justification for taxpayers enhancing profits for developers on higher valued properties by providing incentives. I object to taxpayers "providing operational

support" - in other words - performing functions with city employees or paying for services with tax money to Land Trust groups or other pseudo non-profit organizations.

In general, taxes are far too high for the level of service received - in fact a rebate for poor performance should be considered - especially for our elected representatives. Perhaps the city should get some contribution toward infrastructure from developers of new neighborhoods so those of us in mature neighborhoods actually get some service on the infrastructure that has been paid on for 50+ years.

299. Edmonton is a beautiful city largely because of the river valley and green spaces. Please preserve current green space and work to create and maintain other spaces as the city grow and develops. Do not put growth, development and industry ahead of our environment as the provincial and federal governments are doing!
300. I would like The City of Edmonton to be a leader in ensuring that Edmonton's Natural Areas are protected; this means that if standards set by the federal or provincial bodies is set at a lower standard The City should aim higher. Ensuring that the natural areas, agricultural lands and other environmental sensitive areas will be essential to the wellbeing of all species in the future so, I think it is the responsibility of The City to look to the future welfare of residents.
301. I've always enjoyed Edmonton's natural areas. They make the city a better looking and more pleasant place to live.
302. Keep as much greenspaces as possible in and around the city, not for the least reason that it provides Oxygen for the populace.
303. Take a good hard look at who is resisting the conservation efforts: it is those with a financial interest in developing the natural areas. The longer that this process of "evaluating the options" drags out, the more time developers have to acquire the necessary permits to develop in our remaining natural areas. It would be sensible and prudent to declare an immediate moratorium on further development in these areas.
After all, those areas that are deemed not worthy of conservation can still be developed at a later date. But once an area has been developed, it can NEVER be returned to its natural splendor.
304. Edmonton is fortunate in having a city council that recognizes the 'quality of life' benefits of wild areas within and around the City. Psychologically, wild areas will have a positive effect on the citizens of Edmonton. As we learn to become better stewards of our environment and the other species with which we share this environment, we will all benefit. Perhaps we can become 'role models' for other cities, and the benefits of our good stewardship will keep spreading.
305. Green space is the most valuable thing to this city. It strongly encourages me to remain in this city and i am glad to have it there for my children.
306. I would like to briefly state how incredibly important I believe the further development of natural areas to be. In my opinion, there is no downside to the City investing in natural areas, as a taxpayer, I appreciate and expect it as part of the municipal services.
307. Natural areas and green spaces are one of the main reason that Edmonton can be proud of and it's residents enjoy. Let's make sure we preserve these areas.
308. There were a number of questions on harmonizing policies and regulations with other jurisdictions. This is only good if those policies and regulations are strongly in favour of protection, and re-creation, of natural areas. I would like to see our city take decisive actions in reserving and protecting natural areas. Thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in this discussion.
309. One of the things that I enjoy most about our city is the amount of greenspace that it possesses. Being able to retreat from the hectic pace of city life into the natural green areas is really wonderful. I have heard that we have

more green space than NYC's central park even, I would like this to remain that way and continue to provide new incentives to keep the city and new developments beautiful.

310. Natural areas contribute to cleaner air (an absolute bonus when you consider the rising rate of asthma in both young children and older adults). They also allow for more species survival, which maintains the natural predator/prey balance. Emotional and psychological health of residents is enhanced through proximity to natural areas. It's a win/win scenario ... reducing, eliminating or failing to promote natural areas will only lead to a proliferation of social problems. Isn't it more cost effective in the long run to retain as much "nature" in an urban environment as is possible?
311. The designation of a natural area as >1 hectare seems arbitrary. Ideally, some areas less than one hectare would be, or at least should be, designable as natural areas if there is ecological justification. Public ownership of lands to be conserved may or may not be better than private ownership of those lands from a long-term conservation perspective; if the private owner is willing to commit to long-term conservation, the cost to the City would be less, right? I believe the City should be able to both harmonize its conservation activities with the agencies noted in the survey, but also to adopt additional or more effective measures if warranted.
312. I live miles from the nearest natural area, and what little I once could easily access is rapidly diminishing to new housing developments.
313. There's no place quiet to walk anymore. The areas in the ravines and river valleys are wonderful, but far from me. Little is left on the flats above anymore. There's something really wrong with having to drive 5 miles to get a little solitude.
314. The City has done an admirable job of maintaining natural areas in the urban core. I would love to see more of the same as all the cities I consider great contain great natural spaces and Edmonton should strive to be one of the greatest cities in the world.
315. My wife walks 45 minutes to work or cycles. I cycle to work and enjoy cycling away from roads whenever possible. This is not very possible with our current system of green spaces but I understand the limitations that a city has in accommodating cyclists in a city that feels built to accommodate motor vehicles.
316. I strongly believe that the presence of natural areas that are accessible to all within the City of Edmonton greatly enhances our quality of life. My husband and I were willing to pay more for our home to be close to the River Valley System. We would encourage the City to continue to maintain and expand the network of natural areas so that urban dwellers can enjoy nature and wildlife close to home. I feel these areas not only protect biodiversity, provide habitat for wildlife, and improve our air and water quality, but they improve the physical and mental health of those who enjoy them.
317. Less encroachment on existing natural areas. We are pushing animals out of their habitat for the sake of development. Part of what has made Edmonton unique was the blend of natural spaces and wildlife within a major urban area. With the sprawl of the city, we've pushed the animals out and I'd like to see us maintain what we've got left!
318. I have not visited these natural areas in the past 12 months because my age and mobility problems have slowed me down considerably!!! I have family who do enjoy them.
319. Communication is crucial in making the citizens aware of the efforts the City is exerting to make this issue of importance to us all as well as future generation of citizens. This deserves our conscious understanding and efforts to make it happen.
320. We need to do more as a city to protect it for future generations and for our environmental health and wellness.

321. I have no objection to limited development of public facilities in some of these areas such as walking trails, paved bike paths, ablutions etc. I was disappointed that a vocal group of local people forced the cancellation of the paved bike trail through the fringes of Terwilligar Park. I think we need to look at the bigger picture. A good trail system from Devon through to Fort Saskatchewan would benefit a wide variety of trail & park users.
322. I love walking in the various ravines but don't always appreciate/understand City efforts to maintain trails. Loose gravel on the hill near Aspen Gardens makes footing slippery. The new landbridge next to the foot bridge has meant flooding every time there's rain. I don't know if there's a way to address vandalism and littering, but have to say I only notice a very small amount of it. There is a lot of shortcutting, especially by bike or by people walking dogs. Could education help prevent this?
In general, the natural areas and parks make the City special. Winter in the woods makes up for all the infelicities of winter in the rest of the city. I don't know what kind of comments you're looking for here.
323. Natural spaces are absolutely vital to the health of the planet, and the animals on it, including humans.
324. Living as I do in the Clairview area, I've watched as the large green areas that originally attracted me to the area have been "developed" into shopping malls, townhouse complexes and single family homes. In the past ten years, the amount of green area in my neighbourhood has plummeted, and the traffic congestion, street crime, and general deterioration of the area has made me seriously consider relocating. I've lived in Edmonton for over 35 years, and I find myself seriously considering moving somewhere else. Somewhere more green, where my wife and kids can play in a neighbourhood park or go for a walk without having worry about gang bangers and traffic. I'm firmly convinced that the increase in violent crime over the past 20 or so years can be traced in no small part to the decrease in the quality of life in our urban areas.
325. Edmonton's natural areas are the primary reason that I am able to tolerate living in a city at all. If these areas continue to be threatened by developers and corporations looking to turn profit on Edmonton's housing boom, Edmontonians and those from surrounding areas will suffer a harsh loss in quality of life. Surely the City of Edmonton has enough sense to make a stand for conservation, for natural areas, for Edmontonians.
326. Continue to develop green space, a 4 season trail system, and protection of the river and ravines.
327. Edmonton's natural areas, are one of the most compelling reasons for us to live here. They make this city a wonderful, life enhancing place to live and work. They must be more strongly protected and enhanced.
328. Edmonton is a beautiful city with so much to offer. The biggest problem I find here is apathy, and I think that if more people knew and cared about their green resources then the quality of life of both the people and the environment would increase.
329. there should be more development of path in the sw area, a pedestrian bridge north from Terwilligar Park.
330. Edmonton is a wealthy city that can afford to pay attention to its citizens impact on the environment. For too long we have traded natural areas for an extra DVD player in the bedroom or leather seats in the family car. The time is ripe to change this.
331. Keep Edmonton a city with a great quality of life, with room for human and natural habitats. Once destroyed, we can not get back our natural heritage. Learn from Germany.
332. Congrats to Edmonton for recognizing the value-added of maintaining natural areas within an urban setting. But do not manicure the biodiversity out of them, trails should be minimal width, access limited to discourage vandalism. Use proper reclamation procedures of disturbed land - use native species & discourage invasive weeds. Areas of concern: N. of river, sandhills NW corner, prime agricultural land NE corner; connect the dots SE; maintain green belt along utilities corridor (berms, tree belt at side of ring-road).

333. Simply put, it is a collective awareness to the big picture that is necessary to sustain a healthy life for all of us and our children. It is the men and women that this city votes in to the government that must take responsibility for ensuring a healthy and peaceful place for all of us to raise our children in! Done collaboratively, it is really actually quite easy.
334. It is critical that Edmonton maintain the green spaces that we have. Having large green spaces where natural environment is conducive to maintaining birds, animals and trees in city neighbourhoods and where high density development has not taken place, makes Edmonton different and special to me. I object strongly to developers taking over what makes our city stand out amongst Canadian cities.
335. Best to identify and protect the natural areas before they are lost. Then it will be too late.
336. A big part of the reason I love this city is its green space & the nature reserves. I would hate to see these destroyed by development.
337. One of the key reasons I moved to Edmonton, and stayed, is because of the close proximity to natural habitat and the animals and birdlife that live there. Please, for the sake of our children and great grandchildren, please preserve and maintain Edmonton's natural habitat areas. It's worth more than any amount of money could buy.
338. Conservation can be achieved in an integrated way, and does not have to be an either-or proposition.
339. It is an established fact that Edmonton's natural areas are amongst the best in North America. It is one factor in many that attracts new residents to our fine city. The City must continue to do all it can to foster an attitude to support the continuation of these areas. I for one would seriously look at leaving a city that allowed its greenery to disappear into concrete. It is understandable that there is constant pressure to develop "vacant" land but we must resist the urge to just "grab it all".
340. I strongly agree with this initiative to conserve environmentally significant land within the City of Edmonton. At this point in the development of the City it is essential that this aspect of our City be given prominence because we are running out of opportunities to make a significant difference in protecting many of these areas. I do find it puzzling when there are people equating farmlands as a natural area. I can see this under stringent criteria - organic farming, etc. or perhaps something that has reverted to historical farming methods. But wildlife corridors have always been impacted by farming - farmers don't want their business eaten after all! The native prairie and aspen parklands - the first natural areas - were lost under the plough. So I find it a concern to me personally to suggest that farmland needs to be protected under this initiative. Just my thoughts on that issue. Thank you.
341. I moved to Edmonton in 1991. What sold me on Edmonton then was a walk in Whitemud Creek. I continue to feel that Edmonton's natural areas are the best thing about the City, and likely the City's best selling point. I salute the City's leaders for recognizing the importance of natural areas in making Edmonton a very special place to live.
342. Natural areas are conducive in an attempt to harmonize, as best as possible, urban development with encroachment onto previous natural area be it farmland or, natural treed environment or river valley/ravine natural environment. With the expanding urban landscape and increasing population of Edmonton, new developments need to consider expanding natural areas for preservation as well as light recreation such as cycling, walking, etc. As a avid user of the river valley in Edmonton, over the last 15-20 years, I've seen the use of the river valley for recreation noticeably increase. Edmonton needs to incorporate more areas in urban development to parallel the increasing demand put on these areas. For example, ~13-14 years ago as a cyclist in Terwillegar park, I would maybe see two or three other people in the park during a summer evening of cycling of 1-2 hours. Now the parking lot is full of cars. Cyclists have to go directly into the trees heading south into the trees to avoid a confrontation with dogs off leash, from west of and north of the parking lot all the way to the river.

The idea of having river valley trails that interest with off leash areas have and always will not be ideal. Dogs and runners and cyclists do not mix well and I have seen instances where an off leash dog have caused cycling accidents. anyway this is an entirely different issue but should be considered when creating green space in the city....keep off leach areas separate to any river valley traffic flow. an example where these confrontations have occurred is the trail area between Laurier park and the foot bridge leading over to Hawrelak park.

343. As a resident of northeast Edmonton who has seen natural areas virtually disappear to development I am pleased to see this initiative being taken. I fear that we could lose our garden markets and farms in the northeast. What makes a community attractive to live in is green space and natural areas. I hope Edmonton's future sees protection and development of these areas and that preservation is seen as the priority not development.
344. I believe they enhance the livability of the city and make it a more attractive place to work and live. Effort should be made to maintain and further develop Edmonton's Natural Areas as the city continues to grow.
345. Preservation of natural areas within and adjacent to the City has far reaching positive impacts on the economic AND emotional quality of life of Edmonton's citizens!
346. Being able to "leave the city" and skip rocks at the creek - without ever leaving the city's core, let alone its limits - is an incredible benefit of living here. If we can't wow 'em with shiny new skyscrapers maybe we can attract them with the greatest beauty of all: nature.
347. This is critical. If Edmonton does not take a leadership role in this area, I think that a majority of individuals who have the option to move (and with the babyboomers have the ability soon), they will as these areas are fundamental to a very healthy lifestyle and draws people to live there. I hope you will foster this plan and if you need any assistance from someone who is passionate and could be a volunteer - I know I would assist!
348. We have one of the best green protected areas of any city in Canada and it is vital that all of us understand the fragility of our parklands and take action to protect them.
349. I think it's time governments of all levels started to realize the importance of the environment, wildlife and wildspaces before it's too late. So much has been lost already. I would hope that this will stop. Life is not always about making a buck. It's about being able to breathe.
350. Edmonton's Natural Areas are beneficial to not only the wildlife and plant species of our area, but can also assist as a highly valuable learning tool for young Edmontonians. By investing in our natural areas we can help children and adults obtain value and respect of our natural world and the fauna that inhabit the natural areas. It is especially important in this day, where our environment and global warming state are being threatened. It is crucial to educate children to work towards co-existing with nature, and the relevance of maintaining natural areas in the city and surrounding areas. Regular educational programs should be set up by the city (i.e. walk in the river valley â€œ exploring the fauna that lives among us) that can help increase interest in what Edmontonians have and should work towards keeping.
351. I have always considered our remaining natural areas one of the strongest attributes Edmonton possesses. Our river valley is a gem as are our ravine areas. Also any other areas that can be protected and added should be. What makes life livable in cities is these green spaces and even small areas can add immeasurably to one's quality of life. I regret that the date of the focus group Dec.11 would prohibit my participation in that forum. Perhaps I can participate at some time in the future.
352. Please don't sacrifice Edmonton's natural beauty. Economic growth can develop in this city in co-existence with the preservation of natural lands.

353. Love the new developments that include trails and greenbelts. Has a calming effect and is healthier for everyone.
354. Natural areas are one of Edmonton's strongest competitive advantages when comparing us to other similar metropolitan areas and should be enhanced and preserved at all costs, as they have a positive economic effect as well.
355. The protection of these areas are a Federal, Provincial & City of Edmonton responsibility, what is the Province doing to help the City with preserving Edmonton's Natural Areas. The Province is selling out Alberta's Natural Resources without any long range plans in place as far as I the taxpayer is concerned.
356. Some of the beauties of Edmonton are the many parks, trails and natural areas, especially along the river valley. You take that away from Edmonton and all you have left are condo complexes, housing developments and high rise businesses.
357. We, as a city, have to do as much as possible to preserve the natural areas and not fall scrutiny to the provincial economic boom and all its demands of our resources.
358. Leadership is important to ensuring natural areas are protected. The City could become that leader, work with neighboring municipalities and the Alberta Government to ensure sensitive areas such as the prime agricultural land be protected.
359. Save as much as possible. It's important for our children. We enjoy the ravine system as it is close to our house and we want newly developed areas to have the same thing.
360. We all know that good land is lost to the rich as they get richer. Wildlife has no \$\$ and therefore no voice. The masses have no \$\$ and therefore no voice. The Rich need to be legislated against for the benefit of those who they use to get rich in the first place, the people and animals. Land owners need limitations put in place to prevent the average rich person (or corporation) from owning more property than they can ever use. How many houses sit empty??? The organizations with \$\$ need to LEARN how to reclaim land that is ready for use and not change pristine virgin lands. There is plenty of available land in Edmonton for reclamation. The example put forth by City of Edmonton in using school-zoned land for residential purposes is an excellent move. Why hasn't the Fort Road area been re-developed (Where the Pack-town smokestack resides) The City has to do more in making stubborn land owners give up the land that is sitting idle so it can be developed. Fines should be introduced to land owners who are purposely blocking progress and creating more urban sprawl (75th Street, off Gretzky Drive). Edmonton is the worst example in the world for urban sprawl, and with this boom it is getting worse. High density living is required. More underground parkades are needed. Developers should hold more of a burden in paying for infrastructure upgrades for the crazy developments they propose. The developers need less pressure from downstream money-grubbing middlemen (investors & Real estate agents), how much do they need to own? How much does the industry need to destroy? Limitations need to be set. The power of the people needs to be respected. 1% cannot own 90%.
361. Thanks for putting this survey together. I encourage the partnership referred to in point 12 above, to come up with a list of the top 10 (or 20, or more), endangered, natural areas and become prepared to do what it takes to give these areas strong, protected status. I agree with those who say that the city should be prepared to expropriate such lands, with reasonable compensation.
I also strongly urge the partnership to ensure that what happened to Little Mountain never happen again. Developers must be required to obtain permits before they clear lands! And such permission should not be granted for natural areas until all avenues have been completed covered to attempt to enshrine protected status.
362. We need more trees in Edmonton and area. We need to plant them and protect them.

363. It is always a wonderful pleasure to be able to have a picnic in one of Edmonton's parks, to have a stroll through the river valley and to watch the wildlife in Hawrelak Park. I am strongly against any commercial development in any of these areas as has been proposed by some.
364. The question that asked if the city should have incentives for land developers. I think they should work collaboratively together and not have or ask for special privileges. What would these special "things" be? Isn't it everyone's responsibility to look after the earth? or does everything have to have \$\$\$ attached to it? Developers should be at the forefront of conservation in my opinion. The city needs to take greater responsibility for conservation and making sure developers build around areas and not bulldoze everything in sight that is green. Look at what happened in east edmonton? manning freeway and all the housing built there?
365. As Edmonton sprawls more, we need to project what is inside the urban area. How else can we attract positive people that will contribute to our community. I want to have recreation where I live, for my friends, and my child.
366. Edmonton's Car Culture costs more than protecting walkways and bike trails. Invest in the green space and people won't need to cross the city to find a park.
367. I think it is really important to develop more environmental areas. My class answered these questions and were very passionate about the environmental issues posed.
368. As a simple example of the enrichment of the social environment I can state that I am always delighted to catch sight of a hare in our neighbourhood and I watch for birds other than sparrows and magpies. Any property with backs onto a ravine or the river valley holds greater property value than one beside a busy thoroughfare.
369. Where I have replied neutral, it is only because I have reservations about the implications of strong agreement. Collaborations are to be commended provided they do not result in a weakening of current commitments to protect the environment. Any action that does not protect our environment is short-sighted, both in terms of physical and mental well-being of citizens. I have chosen to live permanently in Edmonton because of its beautiful river valley and previous good community planning. I fear this is currently threatened by overdevelopment and urge the municipality to take a long-term protection view and not one of short-term financial gain.
370. Increased populations and drastic housing increases have already decreased the biodiversity available in Edmonton. Jack-rabbits and deer no longer have a habitat to call their own and will not survive living in city streets where we have overtaken their land. In order to keep our animal populations alive and natural habitats a part of Edmonton, we need to invest in these conservation efforts TODAY.
371. Although there is a desperate need for housing in our booming economy, I feel that it would be negligent and irresponsible for the city to ignore the natural habitat, as well as the esthetic value that natural areas provide in our city.
372. An information campaign describing the benefits of natural area conservation to human health and even property, and a comparison of quality between true natural conserved areas and man-made 'green spaces' would be valuable.
373. I would like to see one of the Natural Areas in The Grange Subdivision named after my grandfather Tom Johnson who once owned much of the land that the subdivision now stands on. He was a conservationist, an avid outdoorsman and protector of wildlife in the Winterburn area for many years. It would be nice to see his spirit remembered in this manner.
374. We need to protect some % of green area in every development. Working with other partners (ie: Alberta Gov, private and public foundations, private business, etc.) to protect these areas to ensure we continue to keep Edmonton GREEN!

375. The parks and natural regions that lay within our city influenced us moving here! Keep the green!
376. Thanks for doing this survey--a VERY important topic! In my opinion, access to natural areas is a significant determinant of mental, emotional & physical well-being.
377. I have been here 5 years, and continually hear about the River Valley, which I support being maintained in as natural a state as possible. However, I live in the Northwest of the city, and rarely go to the River Valley as it is a half hour drive to get there. I would like to see City Council pay more attention to creating and preserving natural areas in other parts of the city where more and more residents reside. I don't understand why we permit huge new subdivisions to be built without incorporating natural areas as a requirement. And while you're listening, I would also like to see commuter bike paths incorporated into the city. When I first arrived, I rode my bike from the Northwest to downtown to get to work--but gave up after almost being hit by vehicles too many times. Come on Edmonton council--you can do better!
378. I think that the natural areas contribute greatly to the quality of life in Edmonton. I love being surprised by a porcupine or fawn on the city trails. You can tell from the controversy surrounding areas such as McKinnon Ravine that landowners feel strongly about maintaining natural areas.
379. Fertile, native soils need to be preserved. Soil is often overlooked as an important natural resource. Biodiversity needs to be preserved even if the numbers or area is small.
380. It is important to develop strong connections with, and support of, groups such as Edmonton Naturalization Group, Edmonton Nature Club, Sierra Club, Alberta Native Plant Council, etc., as well as to educate the general public about the value of natural areas. There are many citizens in Edmonton who would contribute their expertise and time if the City would help to build a coordinated effort.
381. I feel that Natural Areas are an important resource not only for leisure purposes, but to also keep intact native flora and fauna for future generations. We have already bulldozed the excellent farmland in the west end for high priced housing and we have obliterated any natural area that had any potential for easy development. What we have left is not only harder to develop but it is valuable in its own right. As Edmonton grows developers will see their way through to attempting to develop these areas as well. It is up to this generation to hold these lands to natural area uses (even to no development of picnic places and trails) so we have the genetic capability of restoring natural species to other areas in the future. Central Park in New York was such a foresight. Although intensely more urban than a pure natural area it serves a purpose far greater than a park for people to play in.
382. Two points ...
- 1) I really appreciate the trail system throughout our river valley. It's what makes our city special and unique. And I believe the combination of paved and non-paved trails are vital to maintain, as well. I utilize both in my fitness program. Just the other day, I had the privilege to bump into a porcupine (fortunately, from a little distance).
 - 2) Every year, I see more and more trees dying from beavers, bugs and other causes (especially with the beetle infestation we had this year). I believe one of the best long-term plans we could have is a regular reforestation plan. The city should create a bylaw whereby every year, the city commits to "X" tree plantings. Our future generations depend on it! Maybe this is already in place?!
383. While I don't agree that the entire \$150 million should be spent on purchasing environmentally sensitive/important areas, I do agree that the City should do a much better job of planning before selling land to developers to do as they will. I do know that Edmonton's river valley and park system is world class. It greatly contributes to recreation, relaxation and overall livability of the city. It sets the city apart from other major urban centres like Toronto and Montreal, which don't have the parks and green space as we do in Edmonton. In fact, I believe that Edmonton's river valley park system is our greatest asset well above our exploding economic, sporting and cultural activities.

384. I was thinking when I first heard about this that it would be nice for the city to spread out as it develops rather than trying to fill in all of the "gaps" in the city. One of the great things about Edmonton is that you can feel it is a prairie town which is connected to nature. It is highly important to the quality of this city to promote a healthy flow of natural arteries throughout.
385. The natural environments within urban areas are what makes them beautiful - London England is proud of its green spaces, Edmonton is proud of its cycle routes. Lets put nature in its rightful place, above economics.
386. Although urban growth is good for the economy, where does it stop. How can one feel good about a shopping mall or cookie cutter complex when the natural habitat of natural species has been compromised.
387. Urban sprawl is destroying wildlife habitat. We should be building our cities up instead of out.
388. Edmonton's beautiful river valley is well used by the local people. I have met tourists on the river valley trail who want to experience the beauty of nature in our city. With the rocky mountains several hours away, it is very important that Edmontonians have natural areas in and close to our city. Natural areas are an important attraction for people considering living near our city as well as for tourists.
389. One of the best things about this city is the river valley and our green belt. As the city grows, it more important than ever to increase the size of our green spaces and plan and implement conservation strategies for the spaces AND the species within them! The environmentally sensitive areas need to be protected. There is currently encroachment -- the boundaries of these areas should be extended.
390. As my children were growing up, we spent many, many hours in the river valley and natural areas learning about nature, animals, and the role everyone/thing has in our ecosystem. I would like to be able to do the same with my grandchildren some day as well -- thank you for providing this opportunity, and promoting stewardship of these areas! Please...more natural areas for the City of Edmonton!!!
391. As Edmontonians, we claim that this City offers a better quality of life. If we pave over all our natural areas, we are not supporting that goal. Do we want our citizens heading to the outlying municipalities to get back to nature?
392. An inexpensive way to get the message out re: capital gains incentives would be to contact ADVOCIS who advocates on behalf of Financial Planners, since they will be talking to clients about ways to save tax and make legacy donations. Other professionals such as lawyers and accounting associations as well.
393. Recognizing the booming economy, we must not be distracted by potential revenues only from developers. Rather, we must not forget that this generation's choices play a significant role in preserving the natural integrity of the city. We've observed, over the past 60 years, both positive and reckless choices made by our elected civic representatives. Once lost, never retrieved - ethical, informed and well planned efforts in a transparent civic government ensures that our city will remain a green city, through a well balanced plan to recognize the needs of housing, business and green space.
394. Can Edmonton take a leadership role for conservation of natural areas? Perhaps this is the key item that will make Edmonton known on the global stage?
395. We need to stop this urban sprawl; the cost to environment and the taxpayers (new services) is too high. incentives need to be offered to encourage building homes within the existing city limits. These homes need to be made attractive to buyers by offering reasonable pricing, safe neighbourhoods (don't even get me started on the violence issue in the city!!!).
396. As the future of our human race is dependant on the protection of our green areas, it is both the individuals and the governments responsibility to ensure that organizations, and especially large corporations are kept in strict line with natural conservation mandates.

397. One of the outstanding features of Edmonton is the amount of green belts and natural areas. Particularly with the current building boom it is very important to grow these areas in the same rate, set funds aside for maintenance and to network between the different parties involved.
398. AWARENESS IN PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WILL ESSENTIALLY STRIVE TO IMPROVE A HEALTHY STANDARD OF LIVING
399. My husband and I have chosen to live in Edmonton largely due to the incredible river valley we adore. We will support the conservation of this priceless resource!
400. In some areas the Federal and Provincial legislation are not strong enough and in aligning city policies to those, I would hope that Edmonton would surpass those groups legislations rather than weaken our own.
401. I have lived here for 34 years and one of the most important values of Edmonton to my family and I has always been the abundance of natural areas, especially those associated with the river valley. However, many people don't live close enough to that area to visit easily, walk with their children, go out to see birds and plants. For kids to grow up with an appreciation of wildlife and the importance of the environment, they have to be able to experience it. I strongly support the visionary approach Edmonton has taken in this area to date – please continue and expand it!
402. Good job of working with the river valley and gulleys - need more effort on surrounding development - sad to see the private land north of Sherwood park freeway and east of 32 st filled for another industrial complex – city should spend big bucks getting this type of land into protection, as an example.
403. Use the river valley and trails daily
404. A city without nature is a sterile and hostile place - fight crime with more open space and natural calming areas.
405. Edmonton's Natural Areas are a joy to residents and they need to be protected in their whole.
406. My gut tells me it's too late to do this. I admire whoever was able to get this going. So many have fought for 'green spaces' in Edmonton and lost to her obsession with pleasing developers. A strong, proud, city (of champions!) would stand up for itself and define it's character. Edmonton has failed to do this. We have allowed buildings in the river valley and on top of it, that frankly, I think are eyesores. The obstruction at the east end of the conference center was the last straw for me. It wasn't that long ago we were at Little Mountain saving what wild plants we could... I think we are at the point where we have to redefine Edmonton's Natural Areas to Edmonton's greenspaces...
Once in the Bonnie Doon area there were tiny bits of land, little pockets of green...we could have left the green or put a park bench and some shrubbery on them but the city sold them and now they are almost completely covered with housing. I thought there was a bylaw as to the percentage of space that could cover a lot..hmmmm well I am probably starting to get of the topic here...We are blessed with a fabulous river valley and ravine system. There is no question that it should be preserved. I also think every new area should have a space similar to a Hawrelak/Borden/Capilano Park. As the city grows so should it's 'park' space. Whenever we can save a grove of trees or a natural field, we should do so. My children have had the benefit of playing 'children of the forest' in the Millcreek, Cloverdale and Riverdale areas.
I thought it was important to have a natural playground, free of 'equipment', filled with lots of possibilities. We underestimate how important it is for children to have access to these spaces. We need to look at those involved in the design process of Edmonton in the early 1900's. I found this in the Edmonton Real Estate Weekly archives : "Frederick G. Todd, a landscape architect recommended that the city establish a river valley park system....
In correspondence dated May 6th, 1907, Todd, observed: Perhaps no one thing is more important for large cities or cities which are assured of a great future than that they shall early secure open spaces for the benefit of future generations. Hopefully it is not too late to do this.

407. I believe that the river valley and most of its adjoining ravines should be protected in perpetuity, respecting natural drainage systems. The city needs to set the standards for development, rather than caving in to the 'big box' mentality, or to development for development's sake. Think ahead 100, or 200 years. Ensure that every neighborhood has interconnected natural areas, with bicycle and trail systems.
408. We are in a period of high economic growth and expansion - it is imperative that we act quickly to protect our natural areas within our city before development overtakes them. We can already see the effects of our booming economy in the congestion on our streets and increasing crime in our neighborhood. It is the natural areas within Edmonton that will continue to make it an attractive and habitable place to live.
409. I am willing to pay more taxes to increase the amount of parkland and natural areas within the city.
410. I am wary of saying I 'strongly agree' to the idea of encouraging developers to purchase environmentally sensitive areas - I'd want to know what limitations would be in place to ensure the developers would protect and preserve the natural area. I'm also wary of the idea of the Province devolving power to the municipality for protection and conservation of natural areas - this would be a great opportunity for the Provincial government to 'pass the buck' and provide fewer dollars for conservation, and place this burden on the municipalities ... HOWEVER - I do think the cities should be given equivalent powers to designate/preserve natural areas, so that there aren't loopholes that can allow the development of sensitive natural areas!
411. we live in the Hawkstone/Lessard area. currently, there is no direct river valley access nearby. we would encourage construction of the proposed footbridge near Fort Edmonton Park to facilitate user friendly trails in this area.
412. We must, as a society, protect the environment and the natural habitat of the various plants and animals that also live here. We run the risk of paving over the land to make way for growth. This would be detrimental to the future of us as a people and the land itself. Edmonton is a beautiful city, we should not allow it's current growth to turn it into something ugly.
413. It's wonderful to have all the trees and wildlife right in the middle of the city. It makes Edmonton a beautiful and desirable place to live year-round. Natural Areas also provide the many students in our city to study natural wildlife and areas within the city.
414. A couple of years ago I wanted to make a donation towards the City's tree planting program, but found there was no formal way to do it. Does the Edmonton Land Trust allow for (small) charitable donations by citizens for this type of project, or for any other conservation measures/projects, and if so, an awareness campaign would be useful.
415. City should implement a ratio for developed vs. natural area, and set a minimum standard, i.e.: some percentage value like 80% developed to 20% natural.
416. Thanks for publicizing this issue and putting the survey online, making it easy to do. I'm a lifelong Edmontonian, and having access to the parks here is a big part of our high quality of life, I believe. I'm glad the City is doing something, since obviously the Province is not doing enough.
417. Perhaps not a natural area, but sort of; I would like to go on record to state that we should protect the farmers' properties who are growing crops for local farmers' markets in the Edmonton area.
418. More public natural areas awareness programs should be initiated by the City. These should be taught to children in schools and get the younger generation more aware and involved with the disintegration of natural resources to conservation areas in the city and province.
419. Natural areas are important not only for the plant and animal life in such places but also play a roll in air quality, education, quality of life, physical recreation (keeping active).

420. Taking care of our environment is intrinsically connected with taking care of ourselves.
421. I believe that as our energy supplies become less secure (due to political economic decisions, or the dwindling of resources), the importance of maintaining natural spaces that can be utilized by the public of Edmonton for urban farming or energy alternatives will increasingly become a concern in the upcoming years. Maintaining or reclaiming Edmonton's Natural Areas allows people to connect with, study, and enjoy their surrounding ecosystems which we depend on. This will enhance our community health and the sustainability of our habitat. Now to just put a cap on all that harmful pollution spewing from exhaust pipes of all kinds. I can no longer breathe in this town, and am considering going back to my rural roots, no matter how much convenience there is in the city.
422. With the exception of a few buildings in the central downtown area, including the legislature, city hall, and so on, Edmonton is an undistinguished and even ugly city. The green areas are what I like best about the city. Uncontrolled development in areas like Ellerslie take up good agricultural land, a short-sighted approach to land use. Urban sprawl almost makes the city unliveable as it is. What keeps me sane is my morning commute into the downtown area from Mill Creek by bicycle and the city support of maintaining paths during the winter is of paramount importance to me. Without our river valley area, always in danger of being encroached on by short-sighted developers, the city would be another crime-ridden, violent North American city. I use the trails weekly to run too, winter and summer. For recreation, for air quality, for aesthetic reasons, these areas are crucial.
423. The system of natural areas and parks are what make Edmonton a great city and elevate its livability to the top ranks in North America. Sprawling development and encroachment on natural areas both reduce the livability and inhibit ecosystem services. A combination of approaches is necessary to maintain the beauty of our city, through targeted taxation, zoning, restrictions on development, partnership with neighbouring communities, and dialogue with landowners.
424. Protecting natural areas in Edmonton will maintain its attractiveness to others as well as to ourselves. As our city expands, we need to keep in mind that a network of interconnected park area needs to extend beyond the river valley. Small creeks and ravines provide excellent "ready made" natural areas to keep the ribbon of green flowing throughout the city. This network will maintain unique wildlife populations and allow Edmontonians to connect with nature. Beautiful natural areas are incentives for healthy lifestyles and simple pleasures. Please take the time and effort to protect and maintain our beautiful city before it is too late.
425. The greater the exposure to natural areas within the city will go a long way to increasing the appreciation of such areas and their sometimes overlooked value. It is important that humans are reminded that we are not the only inhabitants on the earth and that decisions should not only be about land economics... we owe it to future generations!
426. Quite frankly, I do not trust the City to take care of our common natural spaces at all. I strongly agree that we should take aggressive measures to protect natural areas, esp. the corridors for wildlife. It is much harder to reclaim an area after development than to simply preserve what we have. Edmonton has a River valley system that has won awards worldwide. Yet, the City seems to have difficulty keeping developers hands off some of our most valuable natural space. The Brickyard in Riverdale is an abomination that completely destroys the scenic vista that has been my pleasure to view for the past 25 years. The backend of the Convention Center, the pink condos at the top of Riverdale... A completely independent board should be in charge, one that can be trusted with our children's legacy.
427. Not being from Alberta, the aspect of Edmonton that most attracts me is the river valley system. Without it - this city will lose its character and its quality of life.
428. Thank you for this opportunity. This issue is of utmost importance.
429. Living close to a ravine is a desired feature - and one that was important to us when we made the decision to purchase in Aspen Gardens. Knowing that the ravine will always be there is something that we very much appreciate.

430. The river valley is such a jewel for the city, and a result of far-sighted planning in the 1970s. Let's be as farsighted now, and conserve our green spaces to make Edmonton a livable city for people and animals into the years to come. Once our natural areas are gone, they don't come back.
431. The land trust is useful, but not enough! The city must purchase these lands before they are lost. It is the city's responsibility to enhance quality of life for citizens, not developers or other levels of gov't. Wildlife corridors make sense outside the Henday ring road, or as part of it, but not within the core beyond the river valley parks system.
432. The parks and protected lands in and around Edmonton are one of the most lovely and precious aspects of living here. As a resident of Edmonton I would be willing to PAY MORE (for example, in taxes) to ensure that these areas will be preserved not just for the enjoyment of humans but all the other species we share this area with for generations to come.
433. Edmonton's natural areas play a major role in making the city a pleasant place to live and a better choice than many other cities.
434. Don't develop the natural areas along the river valley and ravines. Edmonton's green spaces are one of its great assets - as is clear when you look at how many people use them in the spring/summer/fall.
435. Our family and friends who visit Edmonton comment on our green spaces and how they are integrated into our city. We need to continue in this direction not only for the beauty and spiritual values they provide but for the spiritual, health and educational opportunities they provide our citizens.
436. Why won't we become one of the largest Ecologically friendly man build city on the earth. Let's have one city on earth that is not all concrete. Why can't Edmonton become a leading example of Eco-designed city while it still has a chance. We can teach other developing/growing cities how to be Ecologically friendly too. In fact in the future this will be a big thing to be proud of along with our hockey team the Edmonton Oilers!!! Let's aim for building the most Ecologically and holistically healthy city on Earth. We could be proud of our oil industry and our booming economy along with a healthy sustainable city. We still have a chance to live in synergy with our natural environment and each other. We don't need another New York city or Chicago... We don't need another Tokyo or Toronto, We don't even need another Calgary. Let's have Ecotown, Eco-Edmonton; Eco-Edmonton! I am a young mind and you may think I am too optimistic; I believe in the city of Edmonton. I am willing to give the rest of my life to see this one man build environment become the first most biggest Ecologically designed city. Please don't mistake this Eco-design term with Green architecture/design! Correct me if I am too optimistic. We are in the midst of a huge natural disaster. This is mostly due to our man build environments all around the earth and there are still people who want to truly destroy the very little natural habitats that we have left. For the sake of development! What are they thinking of, oh yes \$\$\$\$. If you have taken the time to read this thank you.
437. One of the best features of this city is the river valley's extensive natural areas. I feel it is essential that the river valley be protected from development. Natural areas greatly enhance the beauty and livability of any city. I feel the city would be greatly improved if there were additional natural areas within the city beyond the river valley area. I appreciate that people need places to live and to do business, but I prefer to live and do business where the space around me is greenest. Please protect Edmonton's existing natural areas, and beyond that, if the budget allows, please increase the number of natural areas within the city.
438. Surely a city as rich as Edmonton can show interest in more than building development and dollars.
439. If the city is given the chance to turn green land into park areas they should do it and not succumb to pressures on town council to provide affordable (high density) housing. Single dwelling homes within an area would not be considered high density at all but 48 duplexes in a relatively small area would. As a Bergman resident I fully support Habitat for Humanity but I don't support the segregation of a community because of their income. Building a ghetto within an upper-middle class neighborhood would not encourage community behaviour but

single family dwellings would. I am only one of at least 100 close neighbours that would welcome single families (habitat or whatever) into our neighbourhood.

440. The conservation of green space within the city enhances the lives for both citizens and wildlife. I feel this is an initiative which will contribute to civic pride and help to make Edmonton one of the best cities in Canada.
441. Protection of Edmonton's natural areas is critical to maintaining Edmonton as a great city. Our river valley and other parks should never be compromised for the sake of real estate development.
442. Developers have so far been irresponsible in environmental issues and conservation ideas. It is important to have rules for them to ensure this happens as they won't do it on their own. Their concern is only \$\$.
443. Natural areas are a wonderful aspect of Edmonton's urban environment and should be protected and encouraged in every way possible. Natural areas are different from parks. Most Edmonton parks are quite developed and support group/family kinds of activities, whereas natural areas are true natural environments, with a more rustic appeal. They are wonderful places for artistic pursuits such as painting and photography and lend themselves to reflection and rejuvenation on a more personal level than most of our built-up parks do. It's very important to have these kinds of refuge in our fast-paced overly "busy" society. Hawrelak Park is not a refuge on a summer weekend, far from it.
444. With the combination of smart growth initiatives, redevelopment of urban areas, and a positive outlook towards higher density neighbourhoods it seems feasible that natural areas can be conserved within the Edmonton area. As a citizen of central Edmonton, I believe my quality of life is higher with access and proximity to the river valley. I imagine the newer neighbourhoods would also benefit from preservation of such lands.
445. The amount of natural areas in Edmonton is one of its crowning features and should be conserved and expanded upon.
446. I hope that this survey was widely publicized in order that the majority of city residents were able to share their comments. I think the importance of this issue warrants widespread publicity that reaches every member of this community.
447. Our natural areas make our city a better place to live and promote a more stable and flourishing population of people, animals and vegetation.
448. Maintaining the integrity of Natural Areas is a grand challenge and one that we must undertake to preserve natural diversity, to enhance the beauty and liveability of our city spaces and to educate our youth (among others) to the need for preservation, conservation and restoration. The preservation of natural spaces is as important as the economy and contributes to the well-being (health of mind and body) of all citizens and visitors.
449. Edmonton's park system is the best feature of this otherwise visually unattractive city.
450. I do not approve of the way Edmonton councillors have let developers ruin Edmonton's outlying areas with extensive development. I have seen areas (past 23rd ave) where marsh has been drained so that huge houses can be built, the deer used to graze in these areas, migratory birds used to nest there. Now it is all plowed over. You should be building up, not spreading out. You give people no choice but to drive cars in these areas, not good for walking or cycling. It is shameful what you have allowed to happen to our natural area. I have been an Edmonton resident all my life but am considering moving because there is no more countryside, it has been replaced with ugly, overbearing houses piled on top of one another.
451. I live close to Millcreek Ravine and specifically bought my home with the proximity to the ravine in mind. My family and I (and the dog) are frequent users of the ravine for cycling, x-country skiing, biking, tobogganing,

etc. The amount of people using the ravine seems to grow each year. Along with lots of green space I would like to see neighbourhoods become more "walkable" with more benches, garbage cans, etc.

452. Green areas in the city and surround are very important to me - increased urbanization is a FOREVER problem, green space is NEVER reclaimed, but always seen as a positive in any city.
453. Require more enforcement to keep these areas in natural condition - lot of destruction happening in existing areas. Also by new construction along ravines i.e. dumping construction material into ravines and not cleaning it up and by the City itself i.e. trail clearing (continually widening trails - allowing too much recreation on trails).
454. Our green spaces are the primary characteristic that distinguishes Edmonton from other smaller cities in the country. Without them, we are a nameless stretch of strip malls that could be anywhere. Given the devastation that the oil and gas industry has caused to our surrounding regions, it is of utmost importance (indeed, a life or death issue for many species) that our city vigilantly protect its green areas and work to protect and increase bio-diversity in our region. We need to learn an integrated approach to development that involves environmental sustainability.
455. I don't have enough information to answer those questions I answered 'I don't know' to. But I strongly support maintaining and adding to our parks and green spaces, increasing natural habitats. When the boom is done, who will live in all these houses? We will have empty houses stretching for miles. Edmonton is one of the Canadian cities that has shown foresight with its green spaces--one of the only cities I know of in Canada that hasn't got development down to the shoreline. Let's continue to be a trend setter, not a pawn to developers.
456. May the city of Edmonton rapidly create conservation policy for its natural areas, that we can be proud of, that will ensure a healthy quality of life for wildlife and people.
457. Linking along the river to provide continuous walking trails should be a priority
458. Conservation of natural areas is very important as it increases awareness and interest by the people who use these areas. However, careful attention should be paid to the use of such areas. For example, Terwillegar Park should probably have paved trails to discourage people from invading the habitat of the wildlife and prevent erosion of the soil. People tend to stay on the path if it is paved. As it currently stands, people in Terwillegar Park continually widen the paths because they become muddy. Paved trails would prevent this.
459. The river valley is so much an asset to our city. I am so proud of our city and the beauty that we have with so much green. I believe it is part of the City's character and we must not lose that.
460. Green space means better air quality and habitat for wildlife thus enhanced quality of life. The lush River Valley of Edmonton is one strong reason why I chose to live in this city.
461. The maintenance and protection of natural areas and Greenspace within the city is of fundamental importance to the health and well-being of all Edmontonians. It is this incredible urban greenspace that attracted me to the city as a great place to live. Given the current pace and economic incentives to develop areas within the city, it is critical that a natural areas network be identified, created, and maintained for all.
462. I believe that this is an excellent survey questionnaire! And the open houses and workshop arrangements have provided very good flexibility and opportunity to many to become involved. Should a focus group(s) for continued work & implementation of this initiative be needed I would be interested in participating.
463. The city should set aside a swimming lake, perhaps in the Terwillegar area, or by increasing the size of and flow into the ponds at Rundle or Hawrelak. Several such man-made lakes have been created in Calgary.

464. Any initiatives to designate, legislate, purchase and/or and protect natural areas should be fast-tracked to prevent losses such as Little Mountain and many of the city wetlands; the scale and scope of development in Edmonton is intense and we are no longer have the luxury to debate this.
465. Edmonton's green areas are a big plus to my family.
466. Please preserve the remaining natural areas for the dwindling wildlife we have left. I think people would far rather see an animal in its natural habitat than stare at a cookie cutter sub-division named Deer Meadows where there is not a Deer to be found because their habitat was taken from them.
467. The city should encourage residential (true) nature scaping as well. This will not only reduce yard maintenance costs and water consumption, if enough home owners embrace this concept, it could provide quasi corridors for small mammals, reptiles, birds and insects.
468. The City should consider using existing tools such as land use overlays and direct control districts to exercise control over land use and land development in natural areas. Alternatively, the City could create a separate district for environmentally sensitive areas under its land use bylaw so that they could prohibit, regulate and control land use and development within these areas. The City should also consider revising/upgrading its development standards so that the environmental impacts of development are better mitigated.
469. While Edmonton is a beautiful city, much of this seems by chance. As growth pressures increase, the city seems to be maintaining its "keep the taxes rolling in" mentality, allowing developers to squeeze as many lots as possible on to a site. With smaller backyards, there appears to be no green spaces (& it's ugly). Either the city should plan green spaces into the overall development, or (preferably) they should have the developers ensure wetlands & riparian are respected in the developments & greenspaces are set up. Currently, developers like to pretend that local mall parking lots & stormwater ponds are being treated as parks. The City, under the MGD, has all the authority it needs to pursue these processes, but chooses not to deal with developers who are trying to maximize profits.
470. Please don't let our green space be developed, it is the best thing about our city!
471. It would be in our City's interest to maybe develop an EcoVillage at the site of the UofA farm in the Southwest. This is a United Nation's approved designation and would put Edmonton on the international map as an environmental leader. It would be wise to conserve the UofA farm for such a project instead of eventually selling it as profit for commercial/residential development. Natural reserves are extremely important. It is also important to have these areas accessible. It doesn't make sense to have any kind of natural reserve if there is not public access to that reserve. Access though has to be "controlled" in a way that the reserve can be enjoyed without damaging it.
472. I very much enjoy and appreciate the present natural areas in our city. It is never too early to acquire more areas, before the 'concrete takes over'. The more of these areas we have the better it will be for all of us. Keep up the good work!
473. Me and my family use the green spaces in Edmonton every day. When I think of the city, both urban and natural landscapes spring to mind. I love the greenspace in Edmonton and without it, I would not consider this city a place I would want to live and work.
474. Edmonton's green spaces, which are so expansive in the river valley, are the redeeming feature of this city. They are the only thing that sets Edmonton apart from being just another prairie city. Their value, although not explicit, is much greater than that of virtually all development, and their protection must be prioritized accordingly.
475. The City needs to start think beyond saving what's left. After saving the remaining natural areas start planning for the restoration of areas (brown lots, vacant lots, etc.)

476. Also, we need a cultural shift away from the delusion of endless economic growth. The City should look into "sustainable shrinkage" to bring the economy to sane level. (I'm threaten with a doubling of my rent in the next few months. The "boom" is out of control.)
477. It is the natural areas and parks and the "ribbon of green" that Edmonton interesting rather than "Edmonton"
478. The Edmonton river valley and other natural areas are Edmonton's greatest assets and without them, there are far fewer reasons to live in this city.
479. There should be more commitment from the municipalities, provincial, and federal levels to preserve our natural areas, we have an inherent relationship with these natural areas, we are responsible for making sure that they are protected for today and for the future.
480. Just in response to #13. Protection of the environment is a federal and provincial responsibility and the City of Edmonton has limited authority under the Municipal Government Act (Alberta) to implement conservation measures. The Province should provide municipalities with new powers to protect and conserve natural areas. As long as "providing new powers to" doesn't mean "dumping responsibility on", I would strongly agree. It seems that the province is doing as little as possible. With regard to development and collaborating with developers, strong caution advised, but we should adopt slow-growth measures and development within city limits.
481. Economic growth never goes on forever. To sacrifice nature areas for the sake of growth that will inevitably slow down as the economy stabilizes would be meaningless. Future generations of Edmontonians will not look at a condo development and say, "I'm glad my parents generation built that", but they will look at green space and think, "I'm glad that's still there".
482. Natural areas are needed in our fast paced, growing city. Having nature within our city boundaries is relaxing, and has a positive affect on people.
483. Build up, not out! During this peak time, we need to plan for the future to avoid having a city which looks like Hamilton. No green weighted with big industry. Would make Edmonton a worse place to live. I moved from Calgary last year, and the lack of green and practical trails in Edmonton, make me miss Calgary.
484. I'm very proud and pleased with how Edmonton is evolving with regards to conservation; however we have a long way to go to prevent some of these areas from being decimated by developers and private landowners. Increased public/corporate awareness is key; long term incentives can ensure cooperation from all levels of our society. Let's keep at it - look at how we have become a Recycling Leader!
485. I often make use of Edmonton's park areas and would not like them to be jeopardized
486. Our parks are great, when in the river valley you don't even know you're in the middle of the city. There are all kinds of animals that frequent those parks as well. Unfortunately in the spring, summer and fall our homeless also use our parks for their home so this can be a little disconcerting to someone walking their dog or being alone in the park. A little security lighting would be helpful on the paths.
First and foremost it would be important to ensure that industries on the east side of Edmonton aren't dumping into the North Sask river or being allowed to claim that land as their own. As well we should be careful of urban sprawl (like Calgary) and instead renew & update existing neighborhoods (e.g. Griesbach - albeit it's a little expensive for the average person to buy into) and kudos for our downtown redevelopment. These kind of projects are beneficial to the city as well as to the environment as we aren't disturbing the existing eco systems. We need to be refurbishing our existing structures (e.g. schools, rec. centres and encouraging new building in those areas so people will want to live in existing neighbourhoods instead of developing brand new areas.
487. Our river valley, ravine system, natural areas & green corridors connecting them make our city liveable. Please do all you possibly can to save the remaining natural areas (& acquire new ones)

488. One of the highlights of living in Edmonton for the past fifty years has been the river valley beauty and other natural reserves and parks in Edmonton. As more and more land is taken away for development and economic growth we are becoming more and more of just another city in the conglomeration of other cities throughout North America.
489. If we are determined to create a natural legacy for future generations and establish Edmonton as a global model of civic stewardship, we must begin here and now. Truly great cities are built on successful integration of nature and commerce.
490. Moving here from Quebec it was a pleasure to find Edmonton's ravine and river valley park system so well preserved. I think it is one of Edmonton's greatest assets in retaining the intellectual talent which has the mobility to choose the city and country they work in. Natural areas preserve biodiversity and make a city and its inhabitants healthier. There is little green space left in the university area; it's encouraging to see Edmonton is thinking ahead and protecting it from disappearing elsewhere.
491. I grew up living in and being part of Edmonton's river valley greenspace, wildlife and North Saskatchewan sport fishery and to be honest "cringe" at the thought that there may be river valley and other children in Edmonton that may not, in the future get to be able to participate in the same. But then in this day and age when TV and computer games "rule the roost" am I just being old fashioned? I don't think so.
492. We only have one chance to preserve natural areas. Once they are developed, we'll never have a chance to reclaim them. Natural spaces create a healthy identity for the city and neighbourhoods. The river valley provides the city with an identity that is unique among North American cities, and more, large natural areas will only contribute more of this. I used to live in Calgary. Calgary's large natural area is Nose Hill Park - which is merely a large bald hill. But it's amazing how enjoyed it was by residents of north Calgary, and how proud the residents were of it. Edmonton has such a greater opportunity to excel in natural areas, with natural marsh lands, ravines and forests. These areas could become sacred spaces for hundreds of thousands of people in 50 years - or developed into expensive houses and paved to be enjoyed by none. As Joni Mitchell wrote, "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." Please, keep them for more than a parking lot.
493. I moved to Edmonton from Victoria, BC, about a year ago. I hadn't realized what a wonderful city Victoria is for walking, aside from the climate. There are many walkways through and between neighbourhoods so that with a good sense of direction and not necessarily a map one could easily hike from almost anywhere in the city to anywhere else with minimal backtracking. When I try to do the same here in the part of Edmonton I live in (around Callingwood, Lessard), I find myself caught in neighbourhoods with few and often only one way in or out, obviously designed with automobile travel in mind. This is rather boring and frustrating for those of us who like to go on a walk-about or make errands on foot or bicycle, thereby saving money, greenhouse gas pollution, traffic, unnecessary wear and tear on my vehicle and the road system, and I love getting exercise at the same as I'm accomplishing all this, even in the depths of our winters here. And of course the more natural areas I get to enjoy on my way the better, not only for my personal pleasure but also for the benefit of the other creatures who lived here long before we humans became such a force on the planet, and also for the benefit of the planet as a whole, the only home we all have. It seems, to the extent I've explored some of the older parts of town, that walking through is easier and especially lovely in some of the parks and river valley and ravine areas. You can sometimes forget that you are even in still in the city. So please see how we can make all parts of this City more hiking, biking friendly. Thank you so much for inviting input on this important topic.
494. If it weren't for the natural beauty of the river valley and outlying areas in this city I would have moved away years ago! People appreciate the natural beauty within this city. This is the capital city, we are the city of champions, we need to uphold that in our environmental issues as well! Keep the natural beauty!

495. I personally feel that Edmonton is growing too rapidly to be sustainable. Constantly having to put in new roads, sewers, garbage collection, transit and power supplies is putting too much strain on our city's resources. If the city were to stop further spread into rural areas (say, for 100 years), I'm sure that our tax dollars would go further and allow the city to improve our services, rather than have disgruntled citizens, who only see a rise in their taxes and inferior services. It would also help facilitate growth in our inner city as this would encourage developers to put up new high-rise condos as compared to oversized houses on small plots of land. The city of Portland, Oregon has already successfully put such a plan into action.
496. I find it interesting that there is a question about paying more to live near natural areas. Perhaps the question should be that developers pay more, or a penalty is levied on them if they don't conserve green space. I don't mind paying more if it is for the upkeep of the space. It is, I believe, a fallacy that it is a privilege to live near green space; it is in fact a right. Thank you.
497. forums like this should use a little less "scare mongering" in securing their support. when the public thinks "there is only 9% of natural land area left", it places no value on other open areas and park sites for them to provide accurate feedback. "9% of natural land area left" if the other 91% is built form or paved is much different than if half of the other 91% is parks and school grounds and bike paths and 25% is private yards and gardens.
498. Protection of the Environment is our Future. With so many high paying jobs available, we will need these natural areas to maintain a balance between economic progress and nature. People from other nearby Municipalities visit the River Valley and Ravine System every week. A corridor from Devon to Fort Sask. should be completed as soon as possible. With 3-5 upgraders soon to be developed in Fort Sask., communities will need a "quality of life enhancer", provided only by a protected area.
499. Thank you for soliciting opinions on this important topic through this survey.
500. edmonton needs more green space the less trees the less oxygen and no trees we're all dead!
501. I'm proud of our river valley system. I think that anything that can be done to enhance our city in similar manners is an excellent idea.
502. I think natural, pesticide-free areas are very beneficial to the human population. To this end, I volunteer to keep and area close to my home free of creeping thistles and other noxious weeds. It is very rewarding to hear the frogs, an indicator of a healthy environment, in the spring.
503. I think we need to stop urban sprawl - this city is growing out of control. We are infringing on wildlife – and trying to control wildlife (through culling) to accommodate the sprawl. Whatever happened to building up instead of out? Not every new home has to be a stand alone property on the outskirts of the city. Redeveloping older neighbourhoods should be encouraged.
504. Stop the sprawl!!!!
505. I am very much in favour of protecting natural areas. I believe that humanity needs to live in harmony with the environment. We cannot continue to live as if we are somehow separate from the rest of the world.
506. What kind of place is a city where no green is left, just concrete and asphalt? It is a horror to me.
507. Thank you for the opportunity to have input into your consultation process.
508. Last week I received a letter from XXXXX regarding the rezoning application for agricultural land to row housing and small lot housing (your file #LDA06-0204). I hesitate to expend the effort since it seems that development is out of control in this city. This summer one-half of the trees behind me (111th st and Rutherford road) were cut down to widen the road; the creep of the cookie-cutter houses presses further south as the field

disappears. There are no off leash parks in this area!! I moved to this neighborhood to live near undeveloped area...Qualico is driving the bus it seems...time to hit the brakes, I'd say.

509. One of the things I love about Edmonton is the fact that it is green. But more and more I'm seeing that "green" disappear. Please don't let this happen!!!!

510. Edmonton is noted for the beauty of its natural areas, especially the parks and trails of the river valley. These spaces are also well used and appreciated by hikers, bikers; families and children who picnic in the parks; school children on field trips to heritage sites, etc. The natural areas are accessible to all citizens of Edmonton and contributes to the health and well being of all. They are also well appreciated by visitors to the city.

511. If we could restore the integrity and continuity of Mill Creek, that would be an excellent step in the right direction.

512. Coming from Calgary, where parks and natural areas are 'piece-meal', I strongly support the efforts of the City of Edmonton to (a) protect large pieces of land, and (b) protect corridors that connect the large tracts of land. Edmonton's natural areas are, to a large extent, why I still live here. The recreation within the city far exceeds what I have experienced in other major cities in Calgary. I strongly encourage the City to protect these areas, especially considering how far removed Edmonton is from other recreational areas.

513. Edmonton's strongest asset is its Natural Areas, boom-times come and go, the natural areas are what give Edmonton its charm, desirability and define its desirability. Additionally, it is our responsibility as stewards of this space called "edmonton" to share it with other beings that reside here; beaver, coyote, deer, rabbit, birds, water fowl, rodents, porcupine...on and on. Without natural spaces, we won't have these unique residents.

514. Good initiative. Support effort to protect some of these natural areas that could conceivably be lost to the fast growth of Edmonton. Communities are more than brick and mortar and natural green spaces enhance quality of life. They are also legacy lands that future residents benefit from and which add to the unique fabric of the city.

515. I have serious concerns about the rate of development that is currently taking place in Edmonton without consideration of natural areas, particularly on private lands. Strong incentives (financial, recognition, etc.) and development of a closer/better relationship with developers through the Urban Development may help.

516. Natural areas planning should not be limited to existing wildlands, rather, remediation and restoration of developed lands should also be considered. The river valley corridor is the most important green space in the City, followed closely by natural lands (wild and agricultural) on the fringe of the City. The best protection for many green spaces is good municipal planning that encourages higher-density development of the core and protection of the fringe, with strong disincentives for low density suburban growth.

517. This survey is too wordy. Only highly educated residents can understand it well enough to fill it out. I'm glad, however, that you are asking our opinions. Can you make questions and intro shorter?

518. I belong to a hiking group that uses the trails in our city every week. I am also a member of the Edmonton Nature Club and I enjoy birdwatching. Once a natural habitat is paved over, one can never get it back again. Our river valley and the natural areas in our city our Edmonton's treasures and we all benefit from them in so many ways. PLEASE put money, resources and partnerships into these natural areas.

519. Stop allowing development encroachment into river valley parks by the rich and elite. Work to up the biodiversity of Edmonton's boulevards, last year an elm died, and they replaced it with an elm, the whole dang street is elm, the science is sound and widely agreed upon that mono cultures are a dangerous and costly ecosystem to foster.

520. The natural environment allows life to flourish through such processes as carbon dioxide uptake and filtering. The environment also allows species to flourish, such as fish and buffalo, which we use for our survival. The

environment is also the source of much of our resources, which are the backbone of our society. Conservation of natural areas is necessary not just because these areas provide for human needs, but because they are a necessary and beautiful part of a flourishing earth.

521. Conservation of remaining natural capital within Edmonton's urban landscapes should be listed as a priority in all future planning.

522. Edmonton is globally known for its greenspace and the citizens just love it and make a good use

523. The quality of the environment speaks to the value a people places on the quality of human life and ultimately, life itself. We have money in this province and enhancing the quality of life would decrease social problems by increasing the development of more social responsibility in the young via example.

524. I strongly agree that the Municipal Government Act needs to be amended to allow municipalities more power to conserve natural areas (natural capital) and to amend the provisions to allow for greater setbacks from waterbodies. Setback distances should be based on sound science and not some arbitrary number e.g. 6 metres.

525. Edmonton is a diamond in the rough. Selling off the natural areas for the sake of development is selling out future generations.

526. We need to include prime agricultural lands as natural areas, important in their own right. They are essential to our health and well-being and are every bit as important as tree stands or wetlands. We should stop dreaming up ways to exclude them.

527. Natural areas are an important part of our city. It is what provided it with a great deal of its charm. Once it has been destroyed or not looked after we can never get it back. We owe it to future generations to look after and maintain it with a forward looking plan.

528. Please try to keep or make as many natural areas as possible public city property. Please make sure that the financial profitability of the land is never a greater consideration than its value in terms of biodiversity. Believe me, if we continue to value the first over the second the way we always have, the land will be worth nothing. We will have no life left. My God, this is our responsibility to our children.

529. The river valley should be kept for use by wildlife and the people of Edmonton. I do not want to see it developed in any way.

530. Edmonton needs to save its natural habitats surrounding it as well, it needs to work with other municipalities so that all the farmland isn't eaten up by housing. It's sickening to see all these lands being bulldozed down to pavement. Save what we have naturally, don't remake something after the fact. There are enough knowledgeable biologists etc around to consult with, learn from them and have them work with the developers. They are getting away with lots and making lots and lots of money on nature's behalf. We're going to move all the wildlife away if we don't plan accordingly now!!

531. In regards to question #10. I remain neutral because, I would like the integration of Humans with Nature by the way of "green ways". However, we must take a cautious approach. Because I feel that there is a fine line where we are not observing nature, but disturbing it.

532. I feel that these green ways must be carefully planned to allow adequate refuge for the Plants and Animals. Also, to discourage "shortcuts" from trail to trail. I have noticed a great deal of this in the existing trails in the river valley.

533. Much of the land within City boundaries is privately owned as you say and has high market value (because the zoning allows development). The City needs to implement a new zoning or "reserve" system that clearly indicates that some natural lands cannot be developed and therefore have lower market value. Since most of the

remaining natural areas and possible corridors for linkage are on the periphery of the City it is important that conservation planning has a strong regional basis and the City find an effective mechanism to cooperate with other municipalities. (New, post-ACRA meetings should include discussions of land use planning for natural area conservation.) A conduit to allow the public to participate more fully in conservation planning in particular and urban planning in general needs to be found. Numerous committees including the public could be formed to plan different sectors/natural areas plus corridors. The public also needs to be included in planning for and participating in stewardship.

The City needs to mount a much more aggressive education/"marketing" campaign with respect to natural areas. Care should be taken to ensure that the public understand the requirements for ecological functioning of these corridors/linkages and don't just regard them as walking trails. Natural area protection and the conservation plan need to be publicized in conjunction with the City's new parks plan so the public (& administration) clearly understand the difference, the points of overlap, etc.

534. There are so few natural areas left within the city boundaries that it is absolutely imperative that we do everything in our power to protect the remainder.

535. Edmonton has a lovely river valley, but it should not be the ONLY natural area within our city limits. Neighbourhood green space is also important, especially in the outlying suburban areas. Planning of new developments must take this into account. People NEED green space. Children need the freedom to run and explore natural environments, and others need space in which to rejuvenate and enjoy nature.

536. We have a wonderful natural heritage in this City. The quality of our natural areas is one of the key things making Edmonton a world class city. A hearty "well-done!" to the City for taking these important steps to ensure we have this heritage now and into the future.

537. I have not appreciated huge apartments or condo built in our river valley or along areas where there are nature walks for the public. I believe and strongly feel that we have tourist who enjoy and wish they had a natural setting in their city center. This city council are slowly and with greed changing the possibilities of a natural land/parks for our enjoyment.

538. The natural, green areas of Edmonton set the city apart from others - much of the attraction of the city to incoming businesses and residents rests in these natural areas. All possible efforts need to be made to retain existing green areas, and to set aside additional areas of land to be enjoyed for their beauty and the home they offer to various forms of wildlife.

539. In the long run and in the big picture the city's economy will gain much more than it will lose by the conservation of natural areas. As these areas become more rare in the world, that fact alone will make neighbourhoods and the city in general much more desirable.

540. With the increasing urban sprawl, protecting natural areas should be of utmost importance; to provide protection for animals and habitats and to maintain a healthy environment. As well, a concrete jungle is a dismal place to live, green space is needed for an individuals overall well being.

541. Promote these natural areas more. I like living in this city because there are so many natural areas, but people who don't live here don't believe me because Edmonton still has a very undeserved blue collar reputation.

542. Urban sprawl = bad for the city

543. I would encourage the city to establish partnerships with biologist and other environmental scientists at the U of AB and other post-secondary institutions to conduct research in Edmonton's natural areas that is relevant to the management and conservation of these lands and the species that they contain. When possible, and appropriate, federal and provincial scientists should also be included in such collaborations.

544. We need to move forward now regarding natural areas as many have already been lost. We should insist that developers protect natural areas that are significant not just keep an undevelopable property and call it a green space. This increases property values as has been shown in neighborhoods in the USA and Britain.
545. This is a very important survey. I was concerned about the order of responses for question 4. All of the other 13 questions were ordered so that a person with a strong conservation orientation would pick the first option (strongly agree). Question 4 will get some false support for economic development from conservation oriented people because it was the only question where a strongly disagree answer would favor conservation. This is a pivotal question because it really reflects conservation orientation. I hope this is taken into consideration in analyses of the data. A statistician would recommend testing whether responses on this question differed from other responses/orientations of questions within the survey. If answers appear out of character, they would discard that question as a design error in the study.
546. I highly value the natural environs open to us in Edmonton and the surrounding area. I think it is important to conserve these areas wherever possible and to devote city resources to the problem. Having said that, as a one time city employee, I realize that there are constraints upon the city and I feel that we should attempt to operate within those constraints for a realizable, sustainable management plan.
547. The natural areas within Edmonton and surrounding areas are extremely important to the maintenance of biodiversity in this region of Alberta. Conservation is also significant for aesthetic and recreational purposes for the city's residents. As a student in the Environmental Studies program at The King's, I have seen the various habitats in and around Edmonton. Development of these areas would be a devastating loss to the biodiversity in the area.
548. The city of Edmonton while supporting the Edmonton Land Trust should also be making money available so that land can be purchased for the trust not only donated.
549. Thank you for bringing this forward for citizen input.
550. I think that every effort that can be made to preserve natural areas in Edmonton will be of great benefit to the health and wellness of our citizens. Wetlands, such as where ducks are known to inhabit, are very important for producing oxygen in the atmosphere although they seem swampy and unpleasant to some people who aren't aware of the vital part this kind of area plays in our ecosystem. Any forested areas that can be left untouched will be a blessing to future generations, but I also think that integrating some of these areas into residential complexes can be far superior to simply bulldozing vast quantities of land. Some communities in the Scandinavian countries, which tend to be ahead of us in this department, have had positive results with the integration of natural habitats into growing residential areas. It looks much more appealing, too, because new subdivisions usually take decades to grow trees and the property value has already diminished substantially by this point. The fact is, air quality in Edmonton is already very poor for a city of this size and is unlikely to improve due to heavy reliance on auto and truck use in this rapidly growing city. Efforts made toward establishing bike trails could ease congestion, but it will also require education to keep citizens aware that air quality is, in fact, a concern.