



Next Phase Capital Program Business Case Summary



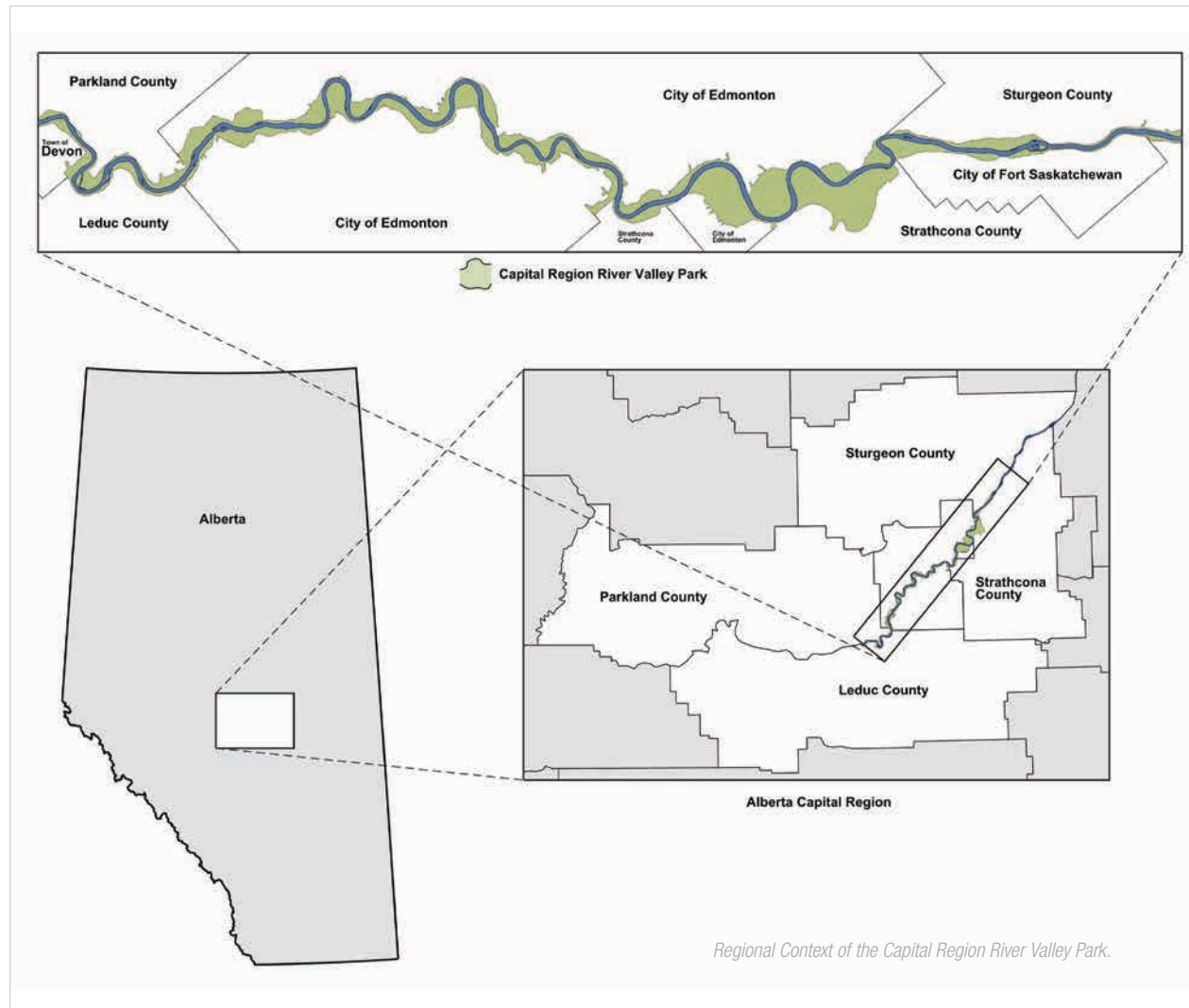
About This Document

Over the past six months, the River Valley Alliance has developed a detailed Business Case for the *Next Phase Capital Program*. Contained in that document is detailed information on the specific projects along with supporting research that reflects the need for, and value of, proceeding with the *Next Phase Capital Program*. This summary document provides an overview of the Business Case.

Who is the River Valley Alliance?

The RVA consists of seven (7) partner municipalities (Town of Devon, Parkland County, Leduc County, City of Edmonton, City Fort Saskatchewan, Strathcona County, and Sturgeon County) with a common mission to preserve, protect and enhance the river valley to create one of the largest river valley park systems for the year-round accessibility and enjoyment of its citizens and visitors.

Map Below From: <http://www.rivervalley.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/executive-summary.pdf>



Vision of the River Valley Alliance

To create a continuous world-class metropolitan river valley park, from Devon through Parkland County, Leduc County, Edmonton, Strathcona County, and Sturgeon County to Fort Saskatchewan.

What successes has the River Valley Alliance achieved to-date?

Over the past decade the River Valley Alliance has secured \$110 million dollars from all three orders of government (\$30M from the federal government, \$50M from the provincial government and \$30M from RVA partner municipalities). This funding has allowed for the execution of numerous capital projects which has directly benefited communities and residents across the region by providing enhanced access to the river valley.

Overview: RVA Capital Program Accomplishments and Contributions

- 9 new trail construction projects in the river valley.
- Construction of 4 new boat docks.
- Refurbishment of 1 motor boat launch.
- Construction of 1 new pedestrian bridge; the world's second longest stressed ribbon suspension bridge.
- Construction of Alberta's first outdoor river valley funicular and elevator.
- Upgrades to three staging areas in Strathcona, Parkland, and Sturgeon County.
- 3 new pedestrian bridges over Battery Creek and associated trail upgrades in Devon.
- Contributed to Fort Saskatchewan's West River's Edge Community Center.
- Construction of trails and supporting infrastructure connecting the Fort Edmonton Pedestrian Bridge to existing trails and nearby communities.



About the Next Phase Capital Program

The *Next Phase Capital Program* includes 13 capital projects that have been identified as priorities by the RVA through ongoing collaboration with its municipal partners. The focus of the *Next Phase Capital Program* is on increasing connectivity and access to the river valley.

The Next Phase Capital Program: Projects Overview

Project Type	Description	Project Cost (\$M)
Pedestrian Bridge <i>(Parkland County & Devon)</i>	This pedestrian bridge provides safe and continuous connectivity between Parkland County and Devon along RVA's secondary trail system.	\$16.8M
Secondary Trail <i>(Parkland County)</i>	This 6.4 km secondary trail links Prospector's Point to future pedestrian bridges in Devon and Leduc County.	\$5.286M
Secondary Trail <i>(Devon, Leduc County, Edmonton)</i>	This 17 km secondary trail starts in Devon, travels through Leduc County, and connects to the trail system in Edmonton. This project enables end-to-end connection on the south side of the river.	\$9.596M
Water Access <i>(Leduc County)</i>	This boat launch will provide safe and efficient access to the river. It will be designed for vehicle circulation with a ramp into the river, parking, comfort stations, and waste receptacles. This project supports the long-term vision for a regional day-use park.	\$0.9M
Primary Trail <i>(Edmonton)</i>	This 5.6 km primary trail starts at Ellerslie Road in Edmonton, then continues to the Anthony Henday Drive on the south side of the river. Here, trail users can cross the river on the existing pedestrian bridge or continue on the existing trails.	\$2.8M
Primary Trail <i>(Edmonton)</i>	This 2.6 km primary trail runs from the Anthony Henday Drive bridge on the north side of the river to the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant, where a pedestrian bridge will cross the river into Terwillegar Park.	\$1.04M
Pedestrian Bridge <i>(Edmonton)</i>	This pedestrian bridge is a vital river crossing and will enable a trail loop. This project will link Terwillegar Park with the E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant and will connect neighbourhoods in west Edmonton to the river valley trails.	\$25.28M
Secondary Trail <i>(Edmonton & Strathcona County)</i>	This 1.7 km secondary trail will connect the existing trail systems in Strathcona County and Edmonton. This project is critical for regional connectivity.	\$1.02M
Pedestrian Bridge <i>(Edmonton & Strathcona County)</i>	This pedestrian bridge is strategically located at the convergence of a number of trails. The bridge will link Edmonton and Strathcona County and will provide access to future regional park projects.	\$26.02M
Pedestrian Bridge <i>(Sturgeon County & Fort Saskatchewan)</i>	This pedestrian bridge will provide a strategic link between Sturgeon County and Fort Saskatchewan, with a number of trails converging at both sides of the river.	\$0.3M
Boat Access <i>(Edmonton & Strathcona County)</i>	This project includes three boat launches, two docks, and one hand launch. The boat and hand launches will provide safe and efficient access to the river. Boat launches will be designed for vehicle circulation with a ramp into the river, parking, comfort stations, and waste receptacles. The docks will provide safe moorage for boats and safe access to the river.	\$1.82M
Boat Access <i>(Sturgeon County & Fort Saskatchewan)</i>	This project includes four docks. The docks will be designed to include parking, comfort stations, and waste receptacles. The docks will provide safe moorage for boats and safe access to the river.	\$0.97M
Touch the Water Promenade	This water front promenade will enhance water access and provide a unique public space in downtown Edmonton. This project will be a signature component of the RVA's vision for a regional river valley park.	\$10M

Funding Framework

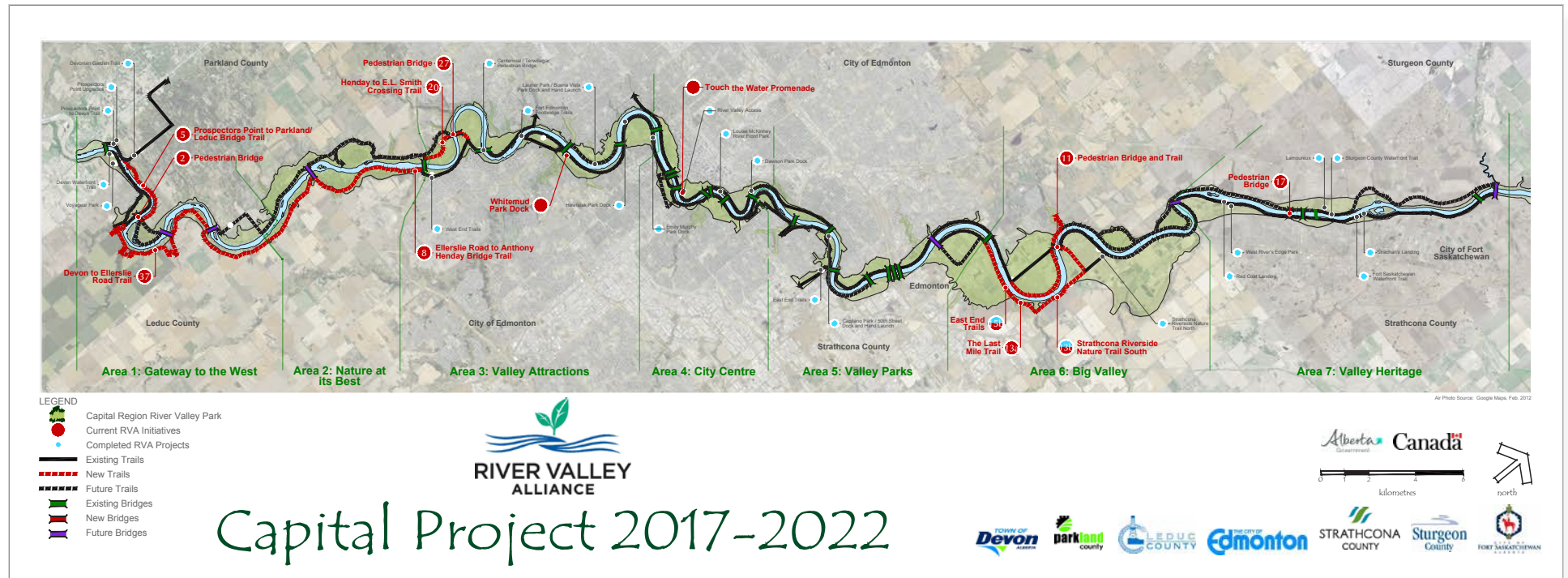
To successfully achieve implementation of the *Next Phase Capital Program*, the RVA will need to procure approximately \$101 million dollars in capital funding. The targeted capital funding framework for the *Next Phase Capital Program* is one-third from the partner municipalities, one-third from the provincial government and one-third from the federal government. The partner municipalities have confirmed their support for the *Next Phase Capital Program*, however funding commitments from senior levels of government are required before implementation can occur.

Funding Urgency

There is a need to secure funding commitments in the near term in order to achieve optimal coordination and planning of the specific projects that comprise the *Next Phase Capital Program*. Building on past successes and momentum is also important to create synergies between past capital initiatives and those which comprise the *Next Phase Capital Program*.

Estimated Timeframes

The estimated timeframe to complete development of the *Next Phase Capital Program* projects is 5 to 7 years from the time that full funding is secured.



Benefits of the Next Phase Capital Program

Successful implementation of the *Next Phase Capital Program* will result in numerous benefits that are wide-ranging and which will positively impact residents and stakeholders across the region and beyond.

Project Stakeholder	Benefits
Regional Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced ability to access the river valley and its amenity spaces. • Increased quality of experience resulting from an investment in new/refreshed/enhanced amenities. • Increased community and regional pride and connectedness.
The RVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to continue working towards the goal of a world class regional park network. • Demonstrating continued success will provide a basis for future phases and fund development initiatives.
RVA Partner Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced and/or new local amenities and spaces will increase resident quality of life. • Ability to leverage and maximize available resources through regional collaboration. • Opportunity to meet priorities and goals outlined in municipal planning documents (i.e. Master Plans, Strategic Plans, Needs Assessments, etc.).
The Province of Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to sustain and enhance one of the provinces feature natural areas. • Opportunity to help create a world class park system that includes a mix of urban and rural spaces. • Evidence (and potentially a replicable model) to support the benefits of regional collaboration and partnerships. • Alignment with the goals, objectives, and action items outlined in overarching strategic planning documents (Active Alberta Policy, Water for Life Strategy, Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta, Alberta's Tourism Framework) • Increases resident quality of life in a major population centre and region.
The Government of Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides enhanced supportive environments for Canadians to be healthy and active. • Development of a feature natural area in one of Canada's largest and fastest growing regions. • Sustains and enhances valued community infrastructure, a strategic priority of the Government of Canada. • Increases resident quality of life in a major population centre and region.
Regional Tourism Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investment in river valley amenities is likely to result in increased local and non-local visitation. • Enhanced staging areas and access points for regional tourism operators.
River Valley User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased quality of experience through access to enhanced amenities. • Increased profile of the river valley provides the opportunity to attract new members and participants. • Increased connections and access points will expand program and event hosting capabilities.
Environmental Advocacy Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased profile of the diversity and environmental value of the river valley. • Access to the river for residents in a sustainable and responsible manner.

A Further Rationale for Investment in Parks and Outdoor Spaces

If Canadians were 10% more active, there would be a \$2.6 billion reduction in health care spending on hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

—*Bounajm, Din and Therieault (2014)*

Individuals who move to greener areas have significant and long-lasting improvements in mental health.

—*Alcock and White, 2014*

Urban park spaces are key to catalyzing visitor spending and tourism.

—*Harnik, P. and B. Welle. (2009).*

Overall, only 57% of Albertans get enough physical activity to achieve health benefits and less than one-third (26%) of Albertans achieve high levels of walking (>12,500 steps per day).

—*The 2017 Alberta Survey on Physical Activity*

The value of trees in a major urban area are estimated in the billions of dollars based on their ability to store carbon, reduce energy consumption and minimize property damage (e.g. during heavy rainfalls).

—*Alexander, C. and McDonald, C. (June 2014)*

Many urban residents, especially children are becoming disconnected from nature and experiencing “Nature Deficit Disorder”. This issue is likely to have significant long-term societal impacts on health, wellness and overall societal values.

—*Richard Louv, Lost Child in the Woods (2005)*

Children who report more time outdoors are more physically active and less sedentary, and display enhanced psychosocial health, compared with those who spend less time outdoors.

—*Larouche et al. (2016)*



